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FBIS-EAS-93-045 CONTENTS *10 March 1993*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Kono Views Possibility of 'Emergency Summit' *[KYODO]* ... 1
Tokyo Agrees to G-7 Cabinet Ministers Meeting *[KYODO]* ... 1
Parties Asked To Approve Miyazawa's U.S. Trip *[KYODO]* ... 2
Tokyo Threatens Action Against U.S. Airlines *[KYODO]* ... 2
Firm Accused of Arms Violation in Parts Export *[KYODO]* ... 2
MITI To Help Foreign Firms Sell Products *[KYODO]* ... 2
Russian Entrepreneur Seeks Foreign Investment *[KYODO]* ... 2
Russian Helicopters Drop Flares on Ships *[KYODO]* ... 3
Tokyo Ships Food to Former Soviet Republics *[KYODO]* ... 3
Tokyo Quizzes Former Soldiers on Comfort Women *[KYODO]* ... 3
Diet Members' Petition on Burma To Go to UN *[KYODO]* ... 3
Kuwaiti Envoy Sees Tokyo Role in Middle East *[KYODO]* ... 4
Firm Rejects PRC Offer for Uranium Enrichment *[KYODO]* ... 4
Vice Ministers Urge Sending Rice to Somalia *[KYODO]* ... 4
Nakayama Orders 2d Battalion to Cambodia *[KYODO]* ... 4
Peacekeepers Said Earning International Praise *[KYODO]* ... 5
Philippine President Continues Visit Activities ... 5
    Attends Welcoming Ceremony *[KYODO]* ... 5
    Meets With Trade Minister Mori *[KYODO]* ... 5
    Urges Investment in Subic Bay *[KYODO]* ... 6
    Attends Dinner Hosted by Emperor *[KYODO]* ... 6
Sweden's Foreign Minister Visits 9-12 March *[KYODO]* ... 7
    Backs Tokyo Security Council Bid *[KYODO]* ... 7
EC Launches Dumping Probe Into TV Cameras *[KYODO]* ... 8
Tokyo Considers Lifting Ban on European Pork *[KYODO]* ... 8
Peruvian Economy Minister Continues Visit *[Lima TV]* ... 9
Lower House Panel Agrees on Reform Debates *[Tokyo TV]* ... 9
LDP Decides on Tighter Political Funds Control *[KYODO]* ... 9
Scandal Figure Agrees to Bedside Questioning *[KYODO]* ... 9
Miyazawa 'Negative' on Kanemaru Arrest Inquiry *[KYODO]* ... 10
Sources: Kanemaru Admits Tax Evasion *[KYODO]* ... 10
DSP Members Accepted Donations From Sagawa *[KYODO]* ... 11
Poll Shows Support for Miyazawa Cabinet Down *[Tokyo Radio]* ... 11
Lighter Parliamentary Load Sought for Watanabe *[KYODO]* ... 12
Business Welcomes Lower House Passage of Budget *[KYODO]* ... 12
MOF Not To Change Discount Debenture Terms *[KYODO]* ... 12
Hiraiwa Sees Better Economic Future for Nation *[KYODO]* ... 13
Tokyo, LDP Work on New Infrastructure Plan *[KYODO]* ... 13
Group Urges Deregulation of Brokerage Fees *[KYODO]* ... 13

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Denounces Team Spirit Opening *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 14
    North 'Keenly Watching' Team Spirit *[KCNA]* ... 15

Rights Groups Denounce ROK, Japan 'Violations' *[KCNA]* 15
Group Views 'Invalidity' of Ulsa Treaty on Japan *[KCNA]* 16
Papers Mark Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties With Yemen *[KCNA]* 16
Meeting Held To Mark Independence of Mauritius *[KCNA]* 16
Korean Intellectuals Form Association in Tashkent *[KCNA]* 16
Kim Il-song, Chong-il Receive Letter From Portugal *[KCNA]* 17
Meeting Marks 65th Anniversary of Peasants Union *[KCNA]* 17
Working Youth Building, Kim Chong-il Benevolence Linked *[KCNA]* 18
KCNA Lauds Achievements of Students 18
KCNA Reviews 10 Mar Pyongyang Press 19

South Korea

Reports, Reaction on DPRK Nuclear Issue Continue 19
    Plutonium Said Extracted *[YONHAP]* 19
    DPRK 'Defensive Measures' Possible *[YONHAP]* 20
    ROK Chairman Briefs U.S. Officials *[YONHAP]* 20
    ROK Ministers: Issue Precedes Talks *[YONHAP]* 20
    Missions To Stress Unchanged Policy *[YONHAP]* 21
    Commentary Examines Nuclear Issue *[HANGUK ILBO 5 Mar]* 21
ROK To 'Unconditionally' Return Yi In-mo to DPRK *[YONHAP]* 22
DPRK Grain Harvest To Fall Short by 2 Million Tons *[YONHAP]* 22
Envoys to U.S., Japan, China, Russia Profiled *[YONHAP]* 22
4 Koreans Chosen as UN Secretariat Staff; 11 Waiting *[YOHHAP]* 23
Australia 3d Largest 1992 Trade Surplus Partner *[YONHAP]* 23
Swedish Foreign Minister To Visit 12-13 Mar *[YONHAP]* 23
Chongwadae Announces Additional Secretaries *[YONHAP]* 23
Kim Instructs Ministers To Facilitate Business Activity *[YONHAP]* 24
Foreign Ministry To Reshuffle 35 Senior Diplomats *[YONHAP]* 24
President Kim Calls for New Military Role *[SEOUL SINMUN 6 Mar]* 25
Kim Yong-sam Addresses Air Force Academy Commencement *[YONHAP]* 25
New Military Chief Views Need for Reform *[YONHAP]* 26
NSP To Reorganize To Carry Out 'True Mission' *[YONHAP]* 26
Ex-NSP Chief Denies Involvement in Anti-Opposition Acts *[YONHAP]* 26
Justice Minister Stresses Anti-Corruption Battle *[HANGUK ILBO 9 Mar]* 27
Ministry Wants To Limit Political Envoys' Tours *[YONHAP]* 27
All DLP Lawmakers To Disclose Assets by 20 Mar *[YONHAP]* 28
DLP To Reorganize Structure, Reduce Employees *[YONHAP]* 28
Former DLP Co-Chairman To Resign Posco Chairmanship *[THE KOREA HERALD 10 Mar]* 28
Hyundai Group Founder To Dissolve Conglomerate *[THE KOREA HERALD 10 Mar]* 29
Finance Minister To Attempt To Stabilize Stock Market *[YONHAP]* 29
Minister: ROK To Take 'Moderate Approach' on Economy *[THE KOREA TIMES 10 Mar]* 29
'State-Invested' Companies' 1992 Sales Rise *[YONHAP]* 29
Agricultural Imports Rise 100% After Liberalization *[YONHAP]* 30

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Daily Criticizes 'Interference' by 'Other Country' *[WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY 24 Feb]* 31
    'Unpeaceful Activities' Viewed *[WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY 23 Feb]* 32
    BBC 'Unprincipled', 'Dishonest' *[WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY 23 Feb]* 33
Khin Nyunt Criticizes Nobel Laureates *[Rangoon Radio]* 35
Convention Delegates Continue Panel Discussions *[Rangoon Radio]* 35

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

House Approves Constitutional Amendment Bill *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 36
Senate Passes Constitutional Amendment Bill *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 36
Government 'Satisfied' With Amendments Approval *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 36
Government To Fight Against 'Eco-Labelling' *[BERNAMA]* 36
Commentary Welcomes 'Timely' Antidumping Law *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 37
SRV Seeks Expertise To Help Rebuild Country *[BERNAMA]* 37
Minister Views Bosnia, Thais' Border Incursion *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 38
Russia Considers Million-Tonne Palm Oil Purchase *[AFP]* 38

Singapore

Seoul TV Interviews Premier Goh in Singapore 38
Minister Says Tax Cut To Attract Quality Investors *[THE STRAITS TIMES 4 Mar]* 39
Government Opens Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City *[Singapore Radio]* 40

Cambodia

Akashi: 'Possibility' Elections May Be Cancelled *[AFP]* 40
Phnom Penh 9 Mar SNC Session Detailed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
Khieu Samphan Blames UNTAC for Problems *[Radio VGNUFC]* 41
Khmer Rouge Radio Cites Sihanouk's Election Communique *[Radio VGNUFC]* 43
Government Claims SRV Fueling Border Dispute *[AFP]* 44
Heng Samrin, Delegation Return From Beijing *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 44
Heng Samrin Greets International Women's Day *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 44
Law on Illegal Ownership of Weapons Promulgated *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 45
PRACHEACHON Urges Efforts for Peace *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46

Indonesia

Suharto Endorsed for New Term by Assembly *[Jakarta Radio]* 46
    To Consult Factions on V-P *[Jakarta Radio]* 47
    Dailies Welcome Suharto Election *[Jakarta Radio]* 47
Army Clashes With East Timor Rebels *[THE JAKARTA POST 20 Feb]* 47
Minister Discloses 1992 Export, Import Figures *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
1991-92 Domestic, Foreign Investments Decline *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 4 Mar]* 48
Officials Admit Inflation Rate 'Still High' *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 3 Mar]* 49

Philippines

Legislators Oppose State of Emergency Plan *[Manila Radio]* 49
Ramos To Review U.S. Ties, Clinton Policies 19 Mar *[Quezon City Radio]* 50
House Examines Armed Forces Modernization Proposal *[MALAYA 10 Mar]* 50
Manila Passes IMF Standby Credit 'Hurdle' *[BUSINESS WORLD 8 Mar]* 50
Joint Congress Body Approves Rebel Amnesty Program *[Quezon City Radio]* 51
Unification Body Opens Peace Consultations *[Manila Radio]* 51
Editorial Criticizes Ramos State of Emergency Plan *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 10 Mar]* . 51

Thailand

Foreign Ministry To Send Election Observers to Cambodia *[Bangkok TV]* 52
Russian Ship's Arrival Prompts Port Blockade *[THE NATION 10 Mar]* 52
    Settlement Reported *[Bangkok TV]* 53
Air Force Chief Rules Out Reshuffle for Top Officers *[BANGKOK POST 10 Mar]* 53

Importers Perceive AFTA-Inspired Difficulties *[BANGKOK POST]* 53

Vietnam

Spokesman Comments on UN Cambodian Resolution *[VNA]* 54
Commentary Views U.S. Normalization Talks *[Hanoi International]* 54
Prime Minister Receives South Korean Official *[VNA]* 55
Thai Premier Receives Vietnamese Envoy in Bangkok *[VNA]* 55
Lao Deputy Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive *[VNA]* 55
Cuban Officer Praises Rice Donation *[Hanoi TV]* 55
PRC Lawyer Delegation Visits *[VNA]* 56
Foreign Firms View Mining Risks, Rewards *[AFP]* 56
Ministry Reports Foreign Investment Status *[Hanoi International]* 56
Vo Van Kiet Discusses Haiphong Economic Potential *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
Printing Enterprises, Arts Troupes Reorganize *[Hanoi Radio]* 57

Japan

Kono Views Possibility of 'Emergency Summit'

OW1003043693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—The government's top spokesman said Wednesday that Japan is willing to discuss the possibility of bringing forward the date of the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, at present scheduled for July 7-9.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said he wanted to withhold comment on holding an emergency summit, however, until he obtains further details about U.S. President Bill Clinton's reported remark Tuesday that an early summit "might be useful" to speed up aid to Russia. Kono said aid to Russia is a "very important" issue for the G-7 countries.

Clinton told reporters after meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand that help for Russia is needed before July, but said means could probably be found without holding a formal G-7 meeting.

Mitterrand said he supports a European Community (EC) proposal to hold an emergency summit, citing the need to address issues facing eastern Europe and Russia.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa last month told EC Commission President Jacques Delors he could not meet the request due to lack of preparation time. At the time Delors said he favored an early summit in order to help revitalize the world economy.

Mitterrand told reporters Tuesday that Tokyo's reluctance to move up the meeting was due to its lack of "sufficient regard on the importance of events" taking place in Europe.

Kono said that Japan would confer with other summit members about an early summit in light of the new proposal, and said it is "unfortunate" that Europe does not seem to be aware of the extent of Japanese economic assistance to Russia. Japan aims to give aid to Russia that will assist self-help efforts to introduce economic reforms, Kono said.

A government source close to Miyazawa said earlier in the week that the U.S. appears to be soft on Russia, and expressed skepticism whether foreign assistance could help Moscow sort out problems that he said are the result of domestic turmoil.

Tokyo Agrees to G-7 Cabinet Ministers Meeting

OW1003144993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1431 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japan on Wednesday indicated reluctance to agree to a proposed convening of an emergency summit meeting among leaders of the world's seven major economic powers to discuss concerted assistance to Russia. Japan will instead agree to the convening of a meeting of cabinet ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) countries, not heads of government, before the July 7-9 Tokyo economic summit, government sources said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, host to the Tokyo Summit, called in two top Foreign Ministry officials to his office Wednesday afternoon to discuss Japan's response to the proposed emergency summit.

Details on the meeting among Miyazawa, Vice Foreign Minister Hisahi Owada and Deputy Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura are not known, however. Matsuura is scheduled to attend a meeting of personal representatives of G-7 leaders to be held in Hong Kong this weekend.

The three-way session followed reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Francois Mitterrand agreed that the European Community's call for an emergency G-7 summit "might be useful." Clinton told a news conference Tuesday, "I don't believe we can wait until July for the major countries of the world...to move" on aid to Russia.

Miyazawa told reporters Wednesday evening that he has not yet reached a decision on whether to hold an emergency summit meeting.

Earlier Wednesday, Japan's top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Japan is willing to discuss the possibility of bringing forward the date of the Tokyo Summit. But Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said he wanted to withhold comment on holding an emergency summit until he obtains further details about Clinton's remark.

In the three-way session, Miyazawa and the two Foreign Ministry officials agreed there is not enough time for Japan to draw up a package to help bail Russia out of its present financial crisis, government sources said. The three men agreed to discuss aid to Russia as one of the major items on the agenda at the Tokyo summit.

Meanwhile, a senior Foreign Ministry official told reporters that the leaders of the United States and France agreed on the importance of helping Russia but did not necessarily agree on convening an emergency G-7 summit.

Mitterrand, who made a one-day visit to the U.S. on Tuesday, said he supports the EC proposal to hold an emergency summit, citing the need to address issues facing Eastern Europe and Russia. He also told reporters that Tokyo's reluctance to move up the meeting was due to its lack of "sufficient regard for the importance of events" occurring in Europe.

The annual G-7 summit will put together the leaders of the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada, as well as representatives from the EC.

Parties Asked To Approve Miyazawa's U.S. Trip

OW0903090593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0852 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The head of the House of Representatives' Rules and Administration Committee asked opposition parties Tuesday to approve Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's scheduled April 15-18 trip to the United States. The parties indicated no particular opposition to Miyazawa's visit to Washington, where he will meet President Bill Clinton, but avoided giving committee chairman Kaoru Yosano a definite answer.

The Miyazawa-Clinton summit is expected to be a wide-ranging exchange of opinions on a number of topics, including the Japan-U.S. trade imbalance, July's Group of Seven summit and calls for assistance to Russia.

Tokyo Threatens Action Against U.S. Airlines

OW1003121693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—The Transport Ministry warned Wednesday that it may take punitive action against Northwest Airlines of the United States if it continues to ignore conditions for its operation of the New York-Osaka-Sydney route.

Ministry officials said the U.S. airline was allowed to extend its New York-Osaka route to Sydney in October 1991 on condition that the ratio of passengers flying on the Osaka-Sydney leg to the combined total of passengers on the entire New York-Osaka-Sydney route and those on the Osaka-Sydney portion does not exceed 50 percent. The ratio, however, averaged 70 percent between December and February, the officials said.

They said the ministry will decide on punitive measures, including a ban on taking on passengers at Osaka in one of three weekly flights between Osaka and Sydney, after reviewing figures for March.

Firm Accused of Arms Violation in Parts Export

OW1003115693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—An opposition lawmaker said Wednesday that a Japanese corporation had violated arms control principles by exporting parts used in airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) planes.

In a session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, Atsushi Akiyama of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] questioned the government's plan to export fuselages used for AWACS planes. He said such exports violate Japan's three principles banning arms exports. He did not identify the corporation.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono replied that the government will unveil its stand on the issue at a later date.

Japan has allocated funds to purchase four U.S.-made AWACS planes in its fiscal 1993 budget, now being deliberated in the Diet. AWACS planes have been assembled with some Japanese-made parts.

Tokyo bans arms exports to nations in the former communist bloc, those to which arms exports are prohibited by U.N. resolutions, and nations involved or feared to be involved in international disputes.

MITI To Help Foreign Firms Sell Products

OW0803143493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] unveiled plans on Monday to support foreign enterprises to sell their products in Japan and make inroads into the Japanese market.

The ministry will establish a business support center at the government-financed Japan External Trade Organization on March 25 to help foreign companies engage in export transactions with prospective Japanese buyers. The center will provide offices to foreign enterprises in search of office space in Japan for a maximum of two months free of charge, ministry officials said.

The plans also call for the establishment of a corporation to help foreign enterprises advance to the Japanese market, the officials said. The corporation, to be capitalized at 1 billion yen, will be equally shared by the government and the private sector, they said.

The officials said the ministry will also invite foreign firms to seminars on Japanese business practices and help them recruit Japanese employees.

Russian Entrepreneur Seeks Foreign Investment

OW0303144293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—A leading Russian entrepreneur on Wednesday proposed establishing joint Japanese-Russian investment protection and insurance schemes to promote Japanese investment in Russia.

Alexander Vladislavlev, deputy chairman of the All-Russia Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, told a news conference that increased Japanese investment will help ease the economic turmoil in his country. He proposed the establishment of a joint Japan-Russia investment protection fund and an investment insurance company, both guaranteed by the Russian Government.

He said the proposed fund, to be shared equally between Japan and Russia, would operate in Japan. The Russian Government would shoulder 50 percent of the Russian share, he added.

Vladislavlev said the Japan-Russia investment insurance company would be 50 percent owned by the investment protection fund. Japanese investment would be insured by the company, bringing it under protection of the Russian Government, he said. Russia's commercial debt to Japan would be resolved within the framework of the fund, he added.

He said his proposal, a brainchild jointly conceived by the union and the Italian politico-economic community, has also been put forward to Germany and the United States.

Russian Helicopters Drop Flares on Ships

OW0603061993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Sapporo, March 6 KYODO—A Russian helicopter dropped six flares on three Japanese trawlers Wednesday off one of the four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, Maritime Safety Agency [MSA] officials said Saturday. It is not known why the Russian chopper dropped the flares, the officials said.

No casualties were reported among Japanes crew members. The flares only damaged the fishing nets, they said.

Two Russian helicopters approached a fleet of three Japanese fishing vessels in waters about 28 kilometers southeast off Etorofu Island while the fishermen were sorting out their catches. One of the helicopters dropped two flares on all the three [as received] boats' stern decks. Each of the three boats is 124 tons and has a crew of 15.

Japanese fishing boats are allowed to catch pollack and other fish in the waters under a bilateral fishing agreement. Japan claims sovereignty over Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan islands as well as the Habomai group of islets, which were seized by the former Soviet Army at the end of World War II.

Tokyo Ships Food to Former Soviet Republics

OW0903060393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—A ship loaded with 350 tons of emergency food for the former Soviet republics left Yokohama for the Russian Far East port of Vostochnyy, near Nakhodka, on Tuesday, Japanese Government officials said. The food shipment, part of a 100 million dollar aid package from Japan, includes condensed milk and canned fruit which will be mainly distributed in Khabarovsk, Sakhalin, and maritime provinces, the officials said.

Under a new system called monetization, local Russian governments will start selling the food to citizens in late March and use money raised to help the elderly and unemployed, they said. Japan plans to provide emergency aid to local Russian governments including St. Petersburg and Moscow, the officials added.

Tokyo Quizzes Former Soldiers on Comfort Women

OW0803143593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The government has questioned more than 10 former Japanese soldiers and army doctors about allegations the former Imperial Army forced Asian women to provide sex for its soldiers, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday. The government could not confirm from the interviews the veracity of allegations the Imperial Army abducted women to frontline brothels, the sources said.

The interviews were the first the government conducted with former military personnel on the issue, the sources said. Before these interviews, the government had focused its investigation on documents related to World War II, they said.

The sources said the government may hear testimony from representatives of some groupings of Asian women who say they were forced into prostitution, if no headway is made in revealing facts from documents.

Last July, the government released findings in which it acknowledged the involvement of the Imperial Army in the recruitment of Asian women. However, the government said its investigations have revealed no evidence of abduction.

The South Korean Government has demanded a further inquiry into the matter, prompting Tokyo to expand its investigation to include documents kept in the national archives, Diet library, and other public archives, the sources said. They said this did not lead to the discovery of any documents giving evidence of abduction.

Diet Members' Petition on Burma To Go to UN

OW1003150993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1421 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Nearly half of Japanese Diet members have signed a petition to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali seeking human rights improvements in Myanmar [Burma] and the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the organizer's office said Wednesday.

The office of United Social Democratic Party leader Satsuki Eda said 344 parliamentarians have signed the petition and Eda hopes to collect signatures from a majority before leaving for New York this month to deliver it to the United Nations. "We are particularly concerned that Aung San Suu Kyi Remains under house arrest," the letter says, pointing the necessity of her and other detained opposition leaders' participation in a national convention, currently in recess, to draw up a new constitution.

The petition calls for swift transition to civilian rule. It also points out that Myanmar's military government, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to allow U.N. Human rights official Yozo Yokota to meet Aung San Suu Kyi and other detainees last December.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since July 1989. Her party, the National League for Democracy, won a landslide victory in 1990 elections, but slorc refused to hand over power.

Kuwaiti Envoy Sees Tokyo Role in Middle East

OW0403100693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A visiting Kuwaiti envoy said Thursday he thinks Japan can play a large role in helping to bring peace to the volatile Middle East.

Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Rab'i, who serves as Kuwait's education minister, made the remark at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club. "Unless the Arab-Israeli confrontation is resolved and unless peace is achieved, the economic and political situations in the region will not be stabilized," al-Rab'i said through an interpreter.

"I think Japan can play a great role in peacefully resolving the problems for countries in that region," he said. The Kuwaiti envoy did not, however, specify what role he thinks Japan could play.

He also reproached Iraq, which invaded Kuwait in the summer of 1990 but was forced out of the emirate after the Persian Gulf war, for taking hostage 670 Kuwaiti nationals. "My hope is that the Gulf region will be made peaceful. But one stumbling block to that goal is Iraq," he said.

The Kuwait envoy arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day stay until Sunday.

Firm Rejects PRC Offer for Uranium Enrichment

OW0903091693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Tokyo Electric Power Co. has turned down a Chinese offer to enrich uranium for the Japanese utility giant's nuclear power plants, industry sources said Tuesday.

The power company said it already has long-term contracts with other overseas concerns, the sources told KYODO News Service. It earlier signed a contract to purchase uranium concentrate from China, which is aggressively exporting concentrate and nuclear plant technology.

The Osaka-based Kansai Electric Power Co. is also considering buying from China.

China's latest move suggests it wants to gain foreign currency through nuclear-related and uranium enrichment exports, the sources said. They said China has an enrichment plant in Gansu Province, but its scale and output capacity have not been disclosed.

Uranium enrichment raises the content of "flammable" uranium 235 used as nuclear fuel to some 2 to 4 percent from 0.7 percent in natural uranium.

Japan's nine big power utilities are consigning the enrichment work to overseas concerns, including the U.S. Department of Energy and European joint venture Eurodif. Their contracts with the U.S. department are long-term, extending beyond 2000.

China recently signed a contract to build a nuclear plant in Iran, and is now negotiating to export nuclear technology to Egypt.

Vice Ministers Urge Sending Rice to Somalia

OW0603062193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Seven parliamentary vice ministers will join a campaign to send rice to poverty-stricken, war-ravaged Somalia, officials said Saturday.

The politicians discussed Japan's assistance to Somalia at a meeting last month, and agreed to set up a committee in March to collect donations of rice from govermment agencies, business corporations and individuals. They hope to collect 10 tons of rice from April through May. The rice collected will be sent via Kenya in June, the officials said.

The group will ask the International Red Cross Society to transport the rice from Kenya to Somalia and distribute it in Somalia, the officials said. Among the seven are Koji Kakizawa of foreign affairs, Shigeru Ishiba of the farm ministry, and Kisaburo Tokai of science and technology.

U.S. military forces have been stationed in Somalia since early December to secure humanitarian aid and stop Somalia's heavily armed warlords from interfering with food relief.

Nakayama Orders 2d Battalion to Cambodia

OW0803020893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0112 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Defense Agency chief Toshio Nakayama issued orders Monday for a second engineering battalion of 600 troops from the ground Self-Defense Force to go to Cambodia to join the U.N. peacekeeping operation there. It will replace another engineering battalion which is coming to the end of its six-month assignment.

The new contingent, from the Northern Army in Sapporo, will replace the first group by early April and will stay until October, Defense Agency officials said.

Nakayama also ordered the first battalion, formed by the Middle Army based in Itami, Hyogo Prefecture, to return home. It has been carrying out road and bridge construction and repair work, and the second contingent will engage in similar work in southern Cambodia, the officials said.

A 50-member advance team from the second contingent will go to Cambodia later this month by a special chartered flight.

Peacekeepers Said Earning International Praise

OW0903112893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday told a replacement team of peacekeepers heading for Cambodia next month their work is earning Japan international praise. "International society has given a high evaluation" to the 600-member engineering corps that last year became the first Japanese military personnel to join in U.N. peacekeeping operations, Miyazawa said.

Miyazawa, speaking at a send-off ceremony at his official residence, told the 50 or so Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) personnel and election monitors present that he has full confidence they will meet the heavy responsibility of helping Japan fill its international duties.

A 600-member engineering battalion is slated to relieve the first GSDF corps, dispatched last September for road and bridge repair work, when its six-month stint ends in early April.

The September group was the first to be deployed under a new law that paved the way for Japanese ground troops to serve overseas for the first time since World War II. In addition, the government is providing 50 monitors to observe elections slated for mid-May.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Defense Agency Chief Toshio Nakayama and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono also attended the brief ceremony and reception.

Philippine President Continues Visit Activities

Attends Welcoming Ceremony

OW1003021893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Philippine President Fidel Ramos and his wife Amelita started the official schedule of the president's first state visit to Japan with a welcoming ceremony Wednesday at the Akasaka State Guesthouse in Tokyo. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Crown Prince Naruhito, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and others took part in the ceremony to welcome Ramos, who took office last June.

The Philippine president arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon for a five-day visit.

Welcoming ceremonies for state guests are usually conducted outdoors in the guesthouse compound but the welcoming function for Ramos took place indoors because of rain. Ramos and his wife exchanged greetings with the emperor and empress in the "Sairan-no-ma" hall of the guesthouse and then all present adjourned to the "Hagoromo-no-ma" hall where the national anthems of the two countries were played.

Following the welcoming ceremony at the guesthouse, the emperor and empress accompanied Ramos and his wife to the imperial palace for a formal audience. The emperor and empress are scheduled to host a state dinner for Ramos on Wednesday night.

Ramos had informal talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe at a Japanese restaurant Tuesday night. During a two-hour meeting, Ramos asked for further economic cooperation from Japan, stressing that he is doing his best to reconstruct the Philippine economy, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Watanabe promised Ramos Japan's continuing assistance to the Philippines, the sources said. He also said it is crucial to maintain security in the Philippines to ensure the influx of private capital which is vital for the economic reconstruction, the sources said.

Ramos told Watanabe he would like Miyazawa, who bypassed the Philippines during his visit to Southeast Asia in January, to visit Manila in the near future, the sources added.

Ramos and Miyazawa will have talks Thursday afternoon.

During the formal audience, Ramos invited the emperor to visit the Philippines, said Kiyoshi Sumiya, grand master of ceremonies of the Imperial Household Agency. Emperor Akihito was quoted as [words indistinct] will consider the matter," according to Sumiya.

Ramos also discussed the close relationship between the two countries, including Japan's economic assistance to the Philippines, with the emperor and empress, Sumiya added.

The emperor told Ramos that he regards personal exchanges as essential for promoting friendly relations, the palace official said. The emperor and empress visited Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in 1991 but did not go to the Philippines.

Meets With Trade Minister Mori

OW1003081493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Visiting Philippine President Fidel Ramos met International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori Wednesday morning at the Akasaka state guesthouse to discuss economic relations between the two nations, Japanese officials said. Ramos expressed high expectations for further investment by Japan to promote tourism and environmental technology transfers, the officials said.

Mori promised Ramos the Philippines would be included in Japan's new environmental and energy-saving technology cooperation program to developing countries, which is now under preparation, the officials said. Mori said the government is scheduled to draw up an outline of the new aid program by the middle of May, they added.

The president also asked Mori to make an early visit to his country. Mori's reply to the invitation, however, was not immediately disclosed.

Mori told Ramos that Japan would seek to provide as much economic cooperation to the Philippines as possible saying economic development in the country is crucial for the entire economic growth of Asia, the officials said.

Urges Investment in Subic Bay

OW1003084293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0611 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Philippine President Fidel Ramos urged Japanese business leaders Wednesday to invest more in plans to develop the former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay for civilian and commercial use.

Ramos, who arrived in Tokyo Tuesday on a five-day visit, made the request at a luncheon sponsored by six Japanese business organizations, including the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI). "With the western Pacific region booming, Subic can be transformed into a great special economic zone in the center of Asia and Pacific region," Ramos said.

"Investors from other countries are already active in Subic, and we invite more Japanese to join them," he said. He emphasized the location of the base, near the growing seaborne trade and shipping routes across the South China Sea, and the presence of about 40,000 skilled workers who formerly had jobs at there.

Ramos said cooperation with Japan is important to the success of the new medium-term Philippine development plan for 1993 to 1998. "It is critically important that Philippine-Japan development cooperation be strengthened now, when the Philippines is on the verge of economic takeoff," he said.

Japan is the largest investor and aid donor to the Philippines. Ramos said bilateral cooperation had given impetus to business activity in the Philippines, and he thanked the Japanese Government for its help in encouraging private-sector orientation.

Ramos said there are seven priority areas of particular interest to the Japanese private sector. His call also included investment in the nation's major "build-operate-transfer" infrastructure projects and providing Philippine workers with more skills and Japanese language training programs.

Ramos said Japanese companies must import more goods from the Philippines and help in environmental protection.

JCCI Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa replied that the economic body already is considering two specific measures that Ramos sought during the 15th joint meeting of the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committees in Manila last September. Ishikawa said the measures will help secondary industries that provide the foundation for overall industrial development in the Philippines, and establish a framework for developing human resources, including the acceptance of Philippine students to study in Japan.

Earlier Wednesday, Ramos and his wife Amelita met Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the imperial palace following a welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka state guesthouse in Tokyo.

Attends Dinner Hosted by Emperor

OW1003134293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Philippine President Fidel Ramos and his wife Amelita attended a state dinner in his honor Wednesday night at the Imperial Palace hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Crown Prince Naruhito, Princess Nori, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and 130 other guests attended, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

Emperor Akihito said in his welcoming speech he is very pleased the two nations have been promoting closer friendly relations year after year by expanding mutual exchanges in every field, including economics, technical cooperation, and culture. He also talked about his experience of visiting the Philippines in 1962 on behalf of the late Emperor Showa as crown prince.

"It was not long after the end of the war, but I still have a vivid memory of the warm hospitality extended to us by President (Diosdado) Macapagal and many other people of the country," the emperor said.

In his speech, Ramos said his Japan visit is "a testimony to our friendship and a contribution towards the continued progress of our two nations."

Ramos said the Philippines and Japan, "Shoulder to shoulder with the countries of the Asia-Pacific and the whole family of nations, can combine their resources, energies, and talents to try and build lasting peace and greater prosperity for all. We must put away the past and embrace the future. We must blaze new trails in cooperation, and discover new grounds for solidarity," Ramos said.

During the dinner, an imperial household orchestra played Philippine songs and traditional Japanese court music.

Prior to the state banquet, Miyazawa paid a courtesy call on Ramos at the Akasaka state guesthouse. Ramos extended invitations to the imperial couple and Miyazawa to visit the Philippines during the courtesy call, Foreign Ministry officials said. Miyazawa expressed his appreciation for the invitation, the officials said.

Ramos spoke of improvements in the Philippines in security conditions, political stability, and economic policies, and the easing of power shortages, they said.

Miyazawa said he valued the improved conditions in the Philippines and suggested Ramos clarify them for Japanese business leaders.

Ramos and Miyazawa are scheduled to have formal summit talks Thursday.

Earlier in the day, Ramos started the official schedule of his first visit to Japan with a welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka state guesthouse, followed by a formal audience with the emperor and empress at the Imperial Palace. He also met International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori and gave a speech seeking more investment in his country at a luncheon held by major Japanese business organizations.

Sweden's Foreign Minister Visits 9-12 March

OW1003113293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Sweden's Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas said here Wednesday her country welcomes a more active Japanese role in global political affairs, such as participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations. "We believe Japan will make an increasingly valuable contribution to the world through the United Nations," Ugglas told reporters at a press conference, pointing to Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia.

Ugglas, who is visiting Japan from March 9 to 12 also in her capacity as chairwoman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), said Japanese cooperation is also necessary in tackling major issues such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and environmental pollution.

The Swedish foreign minister said she welcomes Japan's interest in the activities of the transatlantic, pan-European organization and hopes for future cooperation. The CSCE, which was founded as a negotiating forum during the decades of East-West confrontation, has contributed to easing tensions through confidence-building measures and dialogue.

The CSCE includes the United States, Canada, all European countries except Macedonia, and the successor states to the former Soviet Union. Japan has been accorded guest status with the right to contribute in major meetings of the 53-nation body since last year and may participate in other activities at special invitation.

Ugglas hailed the participation of a Croatian-speaking Japanese diplomat in a CSCE observer mission to former Yugoslavia as well as Tokyo's donating communications equipment to CSCE observers in Kosovo. She acknowledged that the CSCE, like the U.N., has not been able to stop the "tragedy" in Yugoslavia, but said that CSCE activities such as preventive diplomacy and surveillance constituted a "division of labor" among the CSCE, the U.N. and the European Community.

"The United Nations need to work through regional organizations like the CSCE, and it is important that the CSCE cooperates with them," she said. Ugglas said the CSCE is focusing on developing new instruments for preventive diplomacy such as the newly created post of high commissioner for minorities to deal with ethnic conflicts.

On national politics, Ugglas said Sweden is currently pursuing the two main goals of liberalizing the economy and making the country a full member of the EC.

She said Sweden, which tendered its official application on February 1, hopes to conclude negotiations with the 12-nation body within this year to become a full member by January 1995 following approval by a national referendum.

"Sweden as a member of the European Community will be for an open Europe," Ugglas said, denouncing protectionist tendencies in other European nations. "We see the European Community as a mainly political organization to safeguard peace in Europe and for Europe's taking proper responsibility in the world," Ugglas said.

She said Sweden's policy of neutrality, which in the past was the major obstacle to the country's joining the EC, has become less relevant since the end of the cold war. "We are fully prepared to take part in the common foreign and security policy as defined in the Maastricht Treaty on European union," Ugglas said.

Backs Tokyo Security Council Bid

OW1003132593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Sweden on Wednesday gave implicit backing to Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, but warned that the body's effectiveness should not be threatened by expanding too much. Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas told her Japanese counterpart Michio Watanabe in a 20-minute meeting that "important countries like Japan should assume their rightful place in the United Nations," Foreign Ministry officials said.

In an interview with reporters earlier Tuesday, Ugglas predicted a restructuring of the Security Council and called Japanese membership "a natural wish, a natural development" in light of Tokyo's increased international responsibilities. But Ugglas also sounded a cautious note, telling the reporters it is important to ensure that "the effectiveness of the Security Council is not hampered" by expanding its permanent membership too much.

She noted that besides Japan, nations such as India, Brazil and Nigeria want to be considered as candidates.

During a visit to Japan last month, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that achieving a seat on the Security Council was not a pressing priority for Germany.

Foreign Ministry officials said Ugglas informed Watanabe that Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt will pay an unofficial visit to Japan to attend an April 12-13 meeting of the International Democratic Union, a conservative parliamentarians' forum.

Ugglas, who arrived Tuesday for a three-day visit, was quoted as telling Watanabe that Sweden welcomes Japan's efforts to play a larger political role in global affairs and its dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Watanabe offered thanks to Sweden for training SDF personnel in peacekeeping at the Swedish army's U.N. School, the officials said.

In the interview, Ugglas said that Sweden is "very open" to an increase in the Security Council and that the U.N.'s 50th anniversary in 1995 is widely seen as a "target date" for arriving at an international consensus on overall reform of the world body.

The five permanent members of the 15-seat Security Council are Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—the major victorious powers of World War II. Japan is the second-largest overall contributor to the U.N. budget after the U.S. and is currently holding one of the council's 10 nonpermanent seats for a two-year term.

In the interview, Ugglas said she understands that Japan wants a permanent seat but is not asking for veto power over council resolutions.

The Swedish minister said the expertise of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in some areas could be transferred to Asia as regional security schemes are gradually implemented here in the future. Ugglas chairs the CSCE and is its first head to visit Tokyo since Japan was last year accorded participatory status, short of full membership, in the major meetings of the 53-nation transatlantic, pan-European body.

Ugglas said Japan has a "straightforward case" when it comes to its demand that Russia return four islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II. She said it is up to Japan to decide the "proper balance" between its desire to have the islands back and the need to assist Russia's reforms.

Japan has been withholding massive assistance to Russia pending an indication from Moscow that the four islands will be returned. "My message here in Tokyo, as elsewhere, is that I think the industrial countries ought to help Russia," she said. "But naturally I do recognize that there are also bilateral relations to be aware of."

EC Launches Dumping Probe Into TV Cameras

OW1003142593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Brussels, March 10 KYODO—The European Community Commission announced Wednesday it has launched an investigation into allegations of dumping of certain Japanese-made TV camera systems. The probe is based on a complaint lodged by the Committee for Appropriate Measures to Establish Remedial Antidumping (CAMERA) representing two EC producers—broadcast television systems GMBH of Germany and Thomson Broadcast of France, commission officials said.

The Japanese companies producing and exporting the TV camera systems are Hitachi Electronics Ltd., Ikegami Tsushinki Co., Matsushita Communication Industrial Co. and Sony Corp., they said.

Camera claims that the alleged dumping of the camera systems by the Japanese companies involved led to a 26.5 percent rise in the market share of Japanese-made products from 1988 to 1992. It also says the combined share of European makers fell steeply by 30 percent during the period.

The commission officials said the annual trade volume for television camera systems originating in Japan is estimated at 30 million European currency units (ECUs). The imports appear to go mainly to Germany, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark, the officials said.

Tokyo Considers Lifting Ban on European Pork

OW1003105593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0838 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japan is considering whether to lift a ban on pork imports from France, Germany, Belgium and Poland because concern about a pig epidemic in Europe is easing, a government official said Wednesday. The official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries did not say when a decision will be made.

Japan has imposed the import ban because of an outbreak of a pig disease called epidemic stomatitis in Europe. The scrapping of the import ban would follow a decision by the European Community (EC) to stop vaccinating pigs against the epidemic in the spring of 1991.

The Agriculture Ministry sent researchers to France and Germany last December and to Belgium and Poland in February and March to inspect sanitation conditions in pork plants and found no evidence of the pig disease, according to ministry sources.

The sources said the import ban could be lifted only after Japan signs a pact on sanitation standards with the pork exporting countries. Among the EC-member countries, Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland are not subject to the pork import ban.

Peruvian Economy Minister Continues Visit

PA1003144393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Jorge Camet, who is in Tokyo negotiating the debt acquired with the Japanese company Japeco, has said he trusts the receptiveness shown by Japan and the United States toward the efforts by Peru to achieve economic reinsertion. Minister Jorge Camet, who has been in Japan since 6 March, voiced optimism over reaching an agreement to negotiate a payment plan and cancel the $800 million Peruvian commercial debt with the Japanese consortium Japeco, which built an oil pipeline in Peru.

On 8 March the minister met with Yoshiro Hayashi, his Japanese counterpart, who he briefed on the Peruvian economy's current situation. He asked Hayashi for assistance for Peruvian economic recovery. Camet also met with (Misujide Nagahushi), president of the Export-Import Bank, which will provide $110 million in aid to the Second Support Group. Later, the minister of economy and finance met with (Akira Nishigaki), president of the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Fund, an organization that channels government loans in yens to developing countries. During their meeting, Camet briefed (Nishigaki) on the negotiations taking place in Washington to form the Support Group. He received (Nishigaki's) support for the economic reconstruction of Peru.

Minister Camet will remain in Tokyo a few more days to continue his talks with Japanese authorities.

Lower House Panel Agrees on Reform Debates

OW0903043693 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] A lower house special committee will begin debates on 17 March to fully discuss the political reform issue, which is expected to become the greatest controversy during the last half of the current Diet session.

Executives of the lower house special committee on political reform met today on the future directions of Diet debates on political reform and agreed to open formal deliberations beginning on 17 March. The committee will invite academic and business leaders to offer their opinions on reforming the election and political fund control systems. Then, the committee will begin free discussions between the ruling and opposition parties after each party has worked out its own draft bill on political reform.

LDP Decides on Tighter Political Funds Control

OW1003080293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0540 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 Kyodo—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) forum decided Wednesday to incorporate a provision banning transfer of political funds between politicians into a planned political reform package.

A meeting of executives of the LDP's Political Reform Headquarters also agreed to create a clause suspending the civil rights of violators of the Political Funds Control Law, party officials said. They shared the view that a legislative measure banning political donations to individual politicians is needed to draw a clear line between political and private funds.

The proposal comes in response to mounting public outrage at political corruption following the arrest of former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru on suspicion of evading income tax. Kanemaru is suspected of having diverted political donations to increase his personal wealth by purchasing a huge amount of discount debentures issued by banks.

The LDP plans to submit a package of four political reform bills to the Diet at the end of this month, according to the officials.

Two of the bills aim at tightening control on political funds and establishing a system to subsidize political parties. The other two bills are designed to revise the electoral system, including introduction of single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives to replace the multi-seat electoral districts.

Scandal Figure Agrees to Bedside Questioning

OW0903145093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1423 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The House of Representatives' Budget Committee will question a businessman at his hospital bedside Thursday [11 March] in its efforts to look into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal, officials said.

Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu bus company, agreed Tuesday to testify under oath at the hospital where he is currently confined. Doctors told representatives from the Budget Committee on Tuesday that Kobari can endure the bedside questioning, the officials said.

Kobari attended a meeting in June 1991 to discuss how to help reconstruct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. which then faced a financial crisis stemming from loans and loan guarantees it had made to various firms and individuals. Besides Kobari, the 1991 meeting was reportedly attended by Tokyo Sagawa's then President Hiroyasu Watanabe, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) kingpin Shin Kanemaru.

Kobari will be the third witness to testify about the scandal in the current 150-day ordinary session of the Diet which started on January 22. The two others were Takeshita and former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa.

Miyazawa 'Negative' on Kanemaru Arrest Inquiry

OW1003104093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday conceded that public distrust of politics is growing but he virtually ruled out any immediate inquiry by the ruling party into fallen kingpin Shin Kanemaru's arrest for alleged tax evasion.

"Public distrust of politics is deeper tHan ever," Miyazawa told House of Councillors Budget Committee. "Although there are various reasons for that, including the die-hard economic slump, we must listen modestly to public opinion," he said, referring to Saturday's arrest of Kanemaru.

The premier also reaffirmed his desire to implement sweeping political reform during the current Diet session, which runs through late June, to prevent a recurrence of money scandals involving politicians. But Miyazawa said the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) see what ramifications Kanemaru's arrest has, while showing a negative attitude to the party holding an immediate inquiry of the former don of Japanese politics. [sentence as received]

Miyazawa is also LDP president. Kanemaru, a former LDP vice president, quit politics last year after admitting receiving 500 million yen in an illegal donation. That money is not linked to the tax evasion charges.

"Mr. Kanemaru used to have deep ties with our party, and we are highly interested (in his arrest). But we must wait and see how the situation develops," Miyazawa said. He made the remarks in response to a question by Kentaro Koba of Japan's second-largest opposition party, Komeito.

Prosecutors suspect Kanemaru and his former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, both under arrest for alleged tax evasion, siphoned off political donations to fatten their personal fortunes, including a total of 5 billion yen worth of discount bank debentures, well-placed sources said.

Kanemaru, 78, and Haibara, 49, were arrested Saturday on suspicion of evading several hundred million yen in income tax.

Kanemaru allegedly evaded 400 million yen in tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income between 1987 and 1989, prosecution sources said.

Haibara allegedly failed to report income of about 400 million yen, evading 200 million yen for a five-year period starting in 1987, the sources said.

The two men are being held at the Tokyo detention house.

Sources: Kanemaru Admits Tax Evasion

OW1003134593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Disgraced political heavyweight Shin Kanemaru has admitted evading taxes amounting to about 400 million yen in 1987 and 1989, investigative sources said Thursday [11 March; date as received]. Prosecutors are set to indict Kanemaru on 1987 tax evasion at the weekend just before the five-year statute of limitations runs out on Saturday, the sources said.

Kanemaru, 78, and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara, 49, have been under arrest since last Saturday for allegedly evading hundreds of millions of yen in income taxes. Prosecutors suspect that Kanemaru had amassed more than 6 billion yen worth of discount bank debentures, gold bars, stocks and cash in hidden personal assets by investing some political donations, the sources said.

Kanemaru, a former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), allegedly evaded 400 million yen in income tax by failing to declare about 800 million yen of income in 1987 and 1989, prosecution sources said.

Haibara allegedly failed to report income of about 400 million yen, evading about 200 million yen for a five-year period starting in 1987, the sources said.

Both Kanemaru and Haibara allegedly used the hidden income to purchase discount bank debentures.

The prosecutors, who searched Kanemaru's office in Tokyo's Nagatacho political area, seized as evidence some 2.8 billion yen worth of "warishin" discount debentures issued by Nippon Credit Bank and 1 billion yen worth of "wariko" debentures issued by the Industrial Bank of Japan, the sources said. Kanemaru told the prosecutors that he siphoned off some of his political contributions to purchase the debentures, they said.

Under the political funds control law and the income tax law, political donations received by politicians are tax-free if used for political activities. However, taxes are imposed on unused donations as miscellaneous income.

A discount bank debenture is issued with a fixed interest rate at a price reduced from the face value and buyers receive the full amount at maturity. Buyers are not required to be registered in the name of the holders. This makes it easy to use the bonds for illegal financial purposes such as tax evasion and money laundering, the sources said.

The prosecutors will also investigate the relationship between Kanemaru and Rekiji Kobari, chairman of the Fukushima Kotsu Bus Company, who is believed to have encouraged Kanemaru to buy the debentures, they said. Kanemaru and Haibara started to purchase the bank debentures around 1984 on Kobari's advice, investigative sources said.

Kobari is reported to have close ties not only with Kanemaru but with three former prime ministers—Yasuhiro Nakasone, Takeo Fukuda and Noboru Takeshita. He is also said to have business ties with the Nippon Credit Bank, they said.

The former president of the scandal-tainted Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. told a court hearing that Kobari acted as a mediator when Watanabe wanted help from Takeshita and Kanemaru for the delivery firm, which faced a financial crisis stemming from a huge amount of loans and loan guarantees it extended to individuals and firms.

Hiroyasu Watanabe, the former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., is currently on trial for alleged aggravated breach of trust for extending the loans and loan guarantees. Kanemaru allegedly contracted Sanwa Bank, asking it to help the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Kanemaru was fined 200,000 yen last September for receiving 500 million yen in illicit donations from Watanabe and resigned from the Diet the following month.

Kobari, currently in a Tokyo hospital because of a heart disease, is to be questioned at his bedside on Thursday by a group of legislators from the House of Representatives' Budget Committee in connection with the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

DSP Members Accepted Donations From Sagawa

OW1003142093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Sendai, March 10 KYODO—Six Diet members of the opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) accepted political donations from a firm of the scandal-tainted Sagawa Kyubin trucking group, a former group executive revealed in court Wednesday.

Kaichi Nagae, 49, former president of Tohoku Sagawa Kyubin Co., submitted to the Sendai District Court copies of receipts showing a Toyama Sagawa Kyubin Co. branch gave 1 million yen each to late DSP Chairman Ikko Kasuga, former DSP Chairman Saburo Tsukamoto, and four other members of the fourth-largest opposition party. Nagae is seeking compensation of about 500 million yen from Kiyoshi Sagawa, owner of the trucking group, for what he says was his unfair dismissal from the Tohoku Sagawa presidency in 1989.

Apart from Kasuga and Tsukamoto, receipts were issued March 26, 1986, under the name of former House of Councillors members Michikazu Karatani and Shigenobu Sanji, former House of Representatives member Takashi Aoyama, and upper house member Kei Inoue.

Nagae, testifying in court, also revealed there is another receipt dated December 12, 1985, issued under the name of the centrist party's Political and Economic Research Committee. Nagae said the DSP eased up on sniping at the Sagawa Group over a business practice that allegedly caused social problems after Sagawa group firms channeled political funds to the DSP legislators.

The DSP had raised the issue during a Diet session in 1984. "Our branches in Hokuriku and Chukyo areas gave money to the DSP," Nagae said. "I heard an executive of Chukyo Sagawa (Co.) told owner Kiyoshi Sagawa that he presented 200 million yen to Mr. Ikko Kasuga, plus 30 million yen each as summer and year-end gifts."

Touching on how he obtained the receipts, Nagae said, "A dismissed president of the Toyama branch has kept them." He also said Hideo Yahara, a member of Japan's second-largest opposition party Komeito, used to dine frequently with Sagawa at a time when the Sagawa group issue was up for parliamentary discussion. Yahara was chairman of the upper house committee on transport in 1984.

Tohoku and Toyama Sagawa were merged into the Kyoto-based parent Sagawa Kyubin Co. last year together with other regional gooup firms.

DSP Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa, speaking at a hastily arranged news conference in Tokyo, said his party will get the facts straight as soon as possible by interviewing the politicians whose name were disclosed in the trial. "Even if the receipts really existed, it would constitute no criminal cases under the politcal funds control law," Yonezawa said, denying the DSP lawmakers' violation of law.

The political funds control law limits to 1.5 million yen the amount of political donations a politician can receive from any individual or corporation in a year.

Poll Shows Support for Miyazawa Cabinet Down

OW1003050393 Tokyo NHK Radio Network in Japanese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] According to an opinion poll conducted by NHK on the people's livelihood and politics, only 22 percent of the respondents said that they supported the Miyazawa cabinet, down by 11 percent from a survey conducted six months ago in September 1992.

NHK interviewed 1,800 men and women over the age of 20 nationwide on 6 and 7 March. Valid answers were obtained from 67 percent of the interviewees. However, the fact that news of the arrest of Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party, came out on the evening of 6 March, when polling on the first day was almost completed, has to be taken into consideration.

According to the poll, 22 percent supported the Miyazawa cabinet, 62 percent said they did not support the cabinet, while 16 percent replied that they did not know or gave no answer. Compared to a similar poll conducted six months ago, the support rating dropped by 11 percent. This figure is the second lowest since the inauguration of the Miyazawa administration, surpassed only by the 20 percent recorded in March 1992, after the uncovering of the Kyowa corruption scandal.

On the other hand, those who did not support the administration have increased by 15 percent over the figure six months ago, recording the highest figure for the Miyazawa cabinet.

Responding to the question: Are you satisfied with the present state of politics, 15 percent said they were satisfied, or slighty satisfied, while 81 percent said they were dissatisfied, or slightly dissatisfied. Those showing satisfaction have declined 18 percentage points from the previous poll, a figure even lower than the one recorded in March 1989, shortly before the introduction of the consumption tax, and the lowest ever recorded in the past 10 years.

Lighter Parliamentary Load Sought for Watanabe

OW1003105793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Wednesday he will ask opposition parties to exempt Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe from attending some budget committee sessions during his recovery from illness. Kono said he plans to raise the issue with House of Councillors Budget Committee Chairman Kaname Endo.

According to parliamentary tradition, all cabinet members are expected to attend full-day budget committee sessions during the opening week of general questions. Five days of general questioning remain for the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Watanabe has "almost fully recovered" and the lighter load must be acceptable to the opposition parties, Kono told a regular news conference.

Kono declined to respond directly to a question on whether Watanabe's illness is having an effect on Japanese diplomacy.

A government source said that Watanabe was excused from the afternoon budget committee session Tuesday after opposition parties agreed not to bring up foreign policy issues.

Watanabe later hosted a dinner for visiting Philippine President Fidel Ramos and on Wednesday he was to meet Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas.

Watanabe, 69, returned to work on Saturday after spending 19 days in hospital recovering from what doctors said was a cold and exhaustion from overwork. He was previously hospitalized in May 1992 for 40 days, during which he was said to have undergone an operation on his gallbladder. Japanese politicians often do not disclose the exact nature of their ailments.

Business Welcomes Lower House Passage of Budget

OW0603090293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Japanese business leaders on Saturday welcomed the approval of the fiscal 1993 budget by the House of Representatives and expressed hope that the government will follow up with additional pump-priming measures. The lower house approval Saturday afternoon assures enactment of the budget bill in a month.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), called the lower house action highly welcome since Japan is in a serious economic slump. He expressed hope that there will be no delay in the government's implementation of additional pump-priming measures, such as the front-loading of public works spending.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Federation of Employers Association (Nikkeiren), said the government should immediately compile a supplementary budget for the new fiscal year and implement more economic stimulation measures, such as income tax cuts.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also said income tax cuts should be implemented and the official discount rate reduced further to stimulate the economy.

MOF Not To Change Discount Debenture Terms

OW0803124093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—A senior Ministry of Finance (MOF) official said Monday the ministry has no immediate plans to change the terms on discount bank debentures.

The official, who declined to be identified, noted discussions have already taken place on whether to review the bearer format of such debentures. He went on to say the ministry has "no immediate plans to change the terms."

Discount bank debentures were allegedly used by Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and his former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, as a means of evading income taxes. Kanemaru and Haibara were arrested last Saturday [6 March] on suspicion of failing to pay a large amount of income tax.

Discount bank debentures are issued in bearer format by six financial institutions—the Industrial Bank of Japan, the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, Nippon Credit Bank, the Bank of Tokyo, Norinchukin Bank and Shoko Chukin Bank. The securities are redeemed in one year.

Critics say the securities tend to be used by those who try to hide incomes because they are not registered in the name of the owners.

Hiraiwa Sees Better Economic Future for Nation

OW0803110693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The surge of Tokyo stocks on Monday sparked expectations of a better economic future in Japan, a business leader said. Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told a news conference, "I believe the strong performance of the stock market stems in part from the strength of NTT (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.) stock."

The recent gains of NTT stock apparently reflected investor appraisal of plans by the communications giant to raise telephone charges, he said. Hiraiwa said the company's plan to make better use of its assets also contributes to the steady performance.

NTT stock closed Monday at 780,000 yen in active trading, up 75,000 yen from last Friday's close, after hitting 804,000 yen at one point. The closing price is the highest since November.

Tokyo, LDP Work on New Infrastructure Plan

OW1003134893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—With the 1993 fiscal budget passed through the key legislative body, the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are now working on an ambitious plan to consolidate the social infrastructure, sources reported Wednesday.

Yoshiro Mori, minister of international trade and industry, is spearheading a drive to hammer out the program, known as the new social overhead capital consolidation plan. The new plan will enhance the scope of public works projects to cover consolidation of the next-generation information and telecommunications network across the nation to bring its benefits not only to the construction industry but to other sectors, Mori said.

"An early recovery of the economy cannot be expected under the present form of public works projects centering on construction of roads, bridges and parks as it brings benefits only to the construction industry," Mori was quoted as saying.

The new program will help stimulate demand for computers and audiovisual equipment, bringing its benefits to the electronic industry, the sources said. They said the biggest question facing the promoters is how to raise the huge amount of funds necessary for the plan.

The Trade Ministry advocates construction bond issues but the Finance Ministry opposes the idea, saying the law governing the bond issue forgoes the use of funds for the new plan, the sources said.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, calls for a revision of the law so that funds raised by the construction bond issue can be diverted for investment in the new plan.

Yuji Tanahashi, vice trade minister, said that the present form of economy-stimulating measures is not a good remedy for the current recession, which is different from those which occurred in the past and requires the new plan.

The ministry's plan includes expansion of the optical fiber communications network currently operated by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) to cover universities and public institutions such as research organizations, government ministries and other establishments, procurement of personal computers for public schools and distribution of medical and welfare equipment to state-run hospitals and public welfare facilities, the sources said.

The government's efforts to revise the finance law regulating the use of funds raised through construction bond issues have failed due to opposition from the Finance Ministry. Finance Ministry officials warned that a revision of the law will pave the way for the government to issue deficit-financing government bonds.

Group Urges Deregulation of Brokerage Fees

OW1003111893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—A government advisory group proposed Wednesday that brokerage commissions on transactions valued at 1 billion yen or more be liberalized in a year. The proposal, submitted to the Securities and Exchange Council that advises the finance minister, came after nine rounds of talks on ways to liberalize stock brokerage commissions.

The council is expected to give the green light to the proposal at its general meeting on March 30.

The advisory group attached to the council has been working on plans to relax regulations on brokerage fees to reflect fair competition since the council suggested last January that commissions on big deals should be liberalized first.

Some members on the advisory panel were reported to have been in favor of liberalization of commissions on deals valued at 500 million yen or more. But debate ended up by fixing the bottom line at 1 billion yen or more because of fears that drastic liberalization might affect small brokerages already hit hard by the stock market slump.

Stock deals valued at 1 billion yen or more account for about 10 percent of total stock transactions, while those valued at 500 million yen or more represent about 20 percent.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Denounces Team Spirit Opening

SK1003052693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0034 GMT 10 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 10 March commentary: "Opening of a Nuclear War Frenzy"]

[Text] On 7 March, a spokesman of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces raved that several hundred U.S. Marine troops would land by parachute near Pohang, South Korea on 8 March following a nonstop flight from the U.S. mainland to participate in operational exercises and that this would mark the start of the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise.

On March 8, upon receiving a report detailing their participation in the exercise from commanders of puppet army units and U.S. aggression forces, including the commander of the advance guard unit for northward invasion, the commander of the puppet (?Middle Sector) Field Army handed them command batons to the Team Spirit joint military exercise, and inspired them to fan war fever and achieve success in the exercise.

As the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets has entered into its stage of full-scale mobilization, the situation on the Korean peninsula has been aggravated to an extreme, thus creating a grave, touch-and-go situation where nuclear war may break out at any moment.

As has been reported, various types of combat naval ships, including the nuclear aircraft carrier "Independence," B-1B strategic bombers, F-117 stealth fighter-bombers, which were mobilized in the Persian Gulf War, and other modern war equipment, like Patriot missiles, are being mobilized in large quantities by U.S. imperialists in the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise.

The U.S. imperialist aggression forces stationed in South Korea and the puppet army have already entered into a combat posture, and the troops of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific have moved into South Korea to be deployed to their operational positions.

Indications are that the Team Spirit war exercise, which becomes a full-scale one with the transportation by air of U.S. Marine troops from the U.S. mainland and whose start is marked with their landings by parachute near Pohang, will be an extremely grave and dangerous game with fire for a northward invasion.

As is known, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers babbled about suspicions of the North's development of nuclear weapons and clamored that they had to thus resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Simultaneously, they kicked up a commotion regarding the International Atomic Agency's special inspection of us. As is clear to all, the North's nuclear development is a lie and a fabrication designed to ignite the fuse of a war of aggression under the pretext of checking nuclear development.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers are comprehensively staging all possible military exercises necessary for a northward invasion in the course of the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Furthermore, the fact that they have gone so far as to organize a northward invasion unit [pukchimbudae] for mobilization in the exercise clearly shows the nature of this exercise.

Unlike in the past, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are attempting to stage a map exercise—that is, a command post exercise, along with a field mobile exercise. All bosses of the commanding and staff organs of units of different services and branches which are to be mobilized in an emergency on the Korean peninsula are to participate in this map, or command post exercise. This is an even clearer indication of the U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean rulers' war provocation manuevers.

The United States, which has become extremely arrogant in the wake of the dissolution of the balance of power in the international arena, still attempts to realize its wild ambition for aggression against Asia by clinging to its policy of force. The attempt by U.S. imperialists to bring clouds of nuclear war to the Korean peninsula, which has made considerable developments toward peace and reunification as a result of the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization, derives from their criminal attempt at forcefully obliterating our Republic which is advancing along the banner of socialism.

However, if the U.S. imperialist aggressors think that tricks which they have employed in other regions of the world will work on the Korean peninsula as well, they will be making a big miscalculation. Our people are by no means people who knuckle under in the face of the military threat of U.S. imperialists.

Our people and People's Army received the order of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and are now filled with the firm determination to unite in one mind, smash any aggression by the enemies in one blow, and, thus, defend the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style.

The U.S. imperialists should look straight at reality and act discreetly. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets recklessly provoke us despite our warning, they will not be able to escape bitter defeat.

North 'Keenly Watching' Team Spirit

SK1003053493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 10 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets staged a large-scale landing operation in Pohang reaching the culminating point of the criminal "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises on the morning of March 9, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the landing operation were units of the U.S. First Army which had earned itself ill fame during the Korean war, U.S. First and Third Marines expedition units, the U.S. Seventh Fleet, the U.S. Fifth and Thirteenth Airforce units based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific and the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops present in South Korea and tens of thousands of puppet troops.

It involved hundreds of combatant ships including a group of warships with the extra-large carrier independence and a group of warships with the nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser California.

The war gamble was staged with the support of several hundred fighter planes of different types including B-1B nuclear-capable strategic bombers and F-117 stealth bombers, hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles, patriot ground-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and large-calibre guns.

The provocative landing exercise on the coast of Pohang, an area similar to the coastal area of the northern half of Korea, was an extremely dangerous war gamble aimed at landing huge Armed Forces on the coastal area of the North all at once to occupy it and expand success to in-depth areas.

In a separate action, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique staged land operation exercises by mobilizing a large number of U.S. and puppet army troops in Kyonggi, North Chungchong and South Korean Kangwon Provinces.

The people and people's army soldiers in the northern half of the country are now keenly watching the reckless war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

Rights Groups Denounce ROK, Japan 'Violations'

SK1003012693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2141 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—Delegates of international organisations and non-governmental human rights organisations made speeches denouncing the human rights violations by South Korea and Japan at the 49th session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights which opened in Geneva February 1.

The delegate of the International League of Women for Peece and Freedom said:

Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army was arrested during the Korean war and held behind bars in South Korea for 34 years for the mere reason that he refused to be "converted." After his release, he is suffering from a serious consequence of torture in jail. Saying his repatriation has not been solved up until now due to the inhumane behavior of the South Korean authorities, the delegate urged the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to take a necessary step to realize his repatriation.

The delegate of the International Association Against Torture demanded that the South Korean authorities send back old man Yi In-mo to the northern half of the country, release political prisoners, and abolish the "National Security Law".

The [word indistinct] of the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection of military sites unrelated to the nuclear program of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea under pressure from the United States is aimed to divert elsewhere attention from the U.S. violations of human rights and perpetrate the division of Korea.

The delegate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers recalled that woman student Yim Sukyong who participated in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students was arrested and detained under the "National Security Law" as soon as she returned to South Korea.

Delegates of the International Association for Training, Education and Development and of the Liberation, a non-governmental human rights organisation, cited facts to expose that then Japanese imperialists drafted a large number of Korean women as "comfort women for the army" and walked away and forced young and middle-aged people to hard toil during World War II.

The delegate of the Liberation branded as inhumane criminal acts the drafting, forced labor and sexual slavery imposed by Japan on male and female youth and children of Korea.

He urged the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to take the following action:

1) to send a fact finding group to the North and South of Korea to investigate data regarding the past crimes of Japan.

2) to urge the Japanese Government to open to the public all the official documents related to it and make an adequate probe into the truth.

3) to investigate into legal aspects of the matters including the fabrication of treaties by Japan.

4) not to support Japan becoming a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

Group Views 'Invalidity' of Ulsa Treaty on Japan

SK0903060593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The International Fellowship of Reconciliation, an international human rights organisation, in a report to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva pointed to the invalidity of the "Ulsa Treaty" in 1905 and disclosed the wrong attitude of the Japanese Government toward the problem of the "comfort women for the army", according to the Japanese MAINICHI SHIMBUN February 16.

The international fellowship of reconciliation in the report refuted the demand of the Japanese Government for proving illegality regarding the Korean "comfort women for the army" according to the Japanese law of the day. It said the International Law Commission, a U.N. permanent committee, in a report to the U.N. General Assembly in 1963 stated that the "Ulsa Treaty" was typical of the high-handedly signed treaties and, accordingly, it was invalid.

The report noted that all the acts including military service which had been forced to Koreans according to the Japanese law before the war are a violation of the international law.

It said that the spread of views on invalidity at the permanent committee of the United Nations would be, no doubt, a heavy burden upon Japan in the future.

Papers Mark Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties With Yemen

SK0903101693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Yemen.

The establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries on March 9, 1963, marked an epochal occasion in the development of the friendly relations between the two peoples, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article.

It goes on:

The friendship between the two countries has favourably developed over the past thirty years.

Contacts and exchange of visits have become frequent and cooperation in various fields has been strengthened, contributing to the building of a new life in the two countries.

The Yemeni people are now stepping up their efforts to build a prosperous Yemen, consolidating the country's unification and national unity.

The Yemeni Government is making strenuous efforts for a fair solution of the Middle East issue and for peace and security in the Gulf region and paying big attention to the strengthening and development of the non-aligned movement.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the achievements of the Yemeni people in the building of a new society and extend solidarity to their just cause.

To further develop the friendly relations between the two countries conforms to the interests and desire of the two peoples.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says the Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship, and wish the Yemeni people greater success in their struggle for creating a new life.

Meeting Held To Mark Independence of Mauritius

SK1003055593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 10 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Tuesday under the sponsorship of the Korea-Mauritius Friendship Association and the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries on the occasion of the 25th independence day of Mauritius and the first anniversary of the proclamation of the republic.

The meeting was attended by vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Yi Chol-sin and other officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made by Choe Hyon-tok, vice-chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Mauritius Friendship Association.

Messages of greetings to the Mauritian president and prime minister were adopted at the meeting.

Korean Intellectuals Form Association in Tashkent

SK0903060093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The Korean Intellectuals Association under the Committee for the Promotion of Korean Reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States (ASOK) was formed.

The inaugural meeting was held in Tashkent on February 8.

The association involves prominent Korean intellectuals including professors and doctors.

Academician, Prof. and Dr. Kim Vladimir, first vice-president of the University of National Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was elected chairman of the association.

Kim Il-song, Chong-il Receive Letter From Portugal

SK0903050693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—A solidarity letter supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification was sent to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by Chairman Manuel Vargas Loureiro and Vice-chairman and Director of the International Affairs Department Antonio Feu of the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal.

The letter rejects all the attempts to internationally isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has undauntedly made efforts for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula and all kinds of military exercises staged in South Korea.

Extending full solidarity with the Workers' Party and the people of Korea in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, the letter expresses the belief that it will be surely realised by means of confederacy.

Meeting Marks 65th Anniversary of Peasants Union

SK0903112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held here today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the formation of the peasants union by the great leader President Kim Il-song (March 10, 1928).

The meeting was attended by Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, officials concerned and agricultural working people.

Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the C.C., WPK, delivered a report at the meeting.

"From the first days of his revolutionary struggle long ago," he said, "President Kim Il-song viewed the peasant problem in a colonial semi-feudal society as the fundamental of social revolution and defined the peasantry as well as the working class as the mainstream force of revolution for the first time in history, and wisely led the struggle to build up strong revolutionary forces against Japanese imperialism by awakening, organizing and revolutionizing broad masses of peasants."

He said the formation of the first peasants union by President Kim Il-song was a momentous event which marked the glorious origin of new-type revolutionary mass organizations of peasants and it meant the starting-point that heralded a new proud era of the revolutionary peasant movement in which broad masses of peasants came to tread the road of victory and glory as masters of their own destiny.

"Drawing on the unique idea and theory of building a revolutionary peasant organization and on the valuable exploits and rich experience which he had gained during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, President Kim Il-song energetically pushed ahead with the preparations for the building of a unified organization of peasants to rally broad masses of the peasants into one political force in compliance with the requirements of the complicated situation following the liberation of the country and with the requirements of the developing revolution. Thus, he founded the North Korean peasants union, a unified mass political organization of peasants, on January 31, 1946."

The reporter recalled that President Kim Il-song had taken an epochal step of strengthening and developing the peasants union into the Union of Agricultural Working People (UAWP), a mass political organization of socialist agricultural working people, with a scientific insight icto the changed status of the Korean peasants and the new circumstances created in the countryside and into the matured demand of the development of the Korean peasant movement.

"The great leader's chuche-based idea of building a peasant organization and the precious feats performed by him in the solution of the rural question have been successfully carried forward and developed to a new height under the experienced guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said.

He went on:

"The dear leader set it as the most important task of the UAWP to carry out the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, in the countryside and saw to it that ideological education and organizational life were strengthened among the agricultural working people, raised it as an important task of the uawp to mobilize the agricultural working people to the endeavours to increase agricultural production and has wisely led the uawp to carry it out.

"We must bear deep in mind the lesson of history that we would face the lot of slavery again should we abandon socialism, and must firmly defend and further exalt our rural economic system and socialism built in this land at the cost of blood and sweat of our millions of peasants and entire people."

In hearty response to the order of Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander, on entering into the state of semi-war in face of the grave situation created in the country, all agricultural working people should heighten revolutionary vigilance and keep themselves in full combat readiness to smash whatever provocations of the enemy at a stroke, he noted. The reporter called on them to certainly bring in a bumper harvest this year which marks the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war.

Working Youth Building, Kim Chong-il Benevolence Linked

SK1003014893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2211 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The Korean young people are enjoying greatest happiness under the care of the party and state.

The benevolence of the Workers' Party of Korea for the youth is associated with the office building of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth (LSWY) which is located on the bank of scenic Potong River in Pyongyang.

During his on-the-spot guidance to construction sites of the capital in November 1975 the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave instructions to construct a new building of the LSWY Central Committee at another place. The office was a flawless building in those days. But he thought it would look inferior to monumental edifices soon to be built around it.

He chose its site near the party Central Committee, considering the wish of young people. When the designing of the building was completed, he found time to see it in person, saying the office should be built well as the LSWY Central Committee is an important political organ. He stressed that the building should be made splendidly in good harmony with its surrounding big buildings like the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the Changgwangsan Hotel. The construction began, and he acquainted himself with its progress almost every day, taking necessary measures.

The office was so magnificent, when completed, that it looked like a guest house. He did not mind the excess of construction fund when he got a report about it, saying it was all right if it looked like a guest house because it was to be used by young people.

Reading the minds of young people who wanted to have a conference hall as splendid as the office building, he saw to it that materials and equipment needed for the construction of the modern hall were ensured unsparingly, and sent even acoustic equipment, a high-quality projector, pianos and an official car that he had been using.

Thanks to the noble loving care of the dear leader who defined the youth problem as one of the fundamental questions decisive of the destiny of the country and the nation and spares nothing for the young people, the central youth hall, youth hotel and other monumental architectures have been built and modern extramural activity centres for the youth appeared in different parts of the country.

The young people are bringing their wisdom and talents into full bloom there, finding their true happiness in exalting the most advantageous anthropocentric socialist system built in Korea.

KCNA Lauds Achievements of Students

SK1003015693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1528 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—Many gifted young people are reported one after another from among Korean students, drawing attention of academic circles.

The 8th congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea which was held in Pyongyang recently proudly announced the emergence of more than 7,200 candidate associate doctors, 25 classes of candidate associate doctors, many winners of the "student prize for scientific studies" and student inventors across the country in the past 10 odd years. This is a typical instance showing part of the prospect of the development of the nation's science and technology.

The state has opened a broad avenue for the rising generation to bring their wisdom and talents into full bloom.

Saying when many talents with extraordinary aptitudes and ability appear amomg the students the country will prosper and the dignity of the nation will shine, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il bestows unsparing solicitude on them to boost their ability systematically.

He put forward the most correct policy of systematically and comprehensively fostering the outstanding wisdom, talent and aptitudes of individual students on the basis of a scientific analysis of the development of man's talent and the advantages of the socialist system which guarantees the eevelopment of individuality, and has taken various measures. As a result, gifted personnel training centres were built splendidly in different places of the country, a soloist chair was set up at Pyongyang University of Music and Dance and a class of noted painters came into being at Pyongyang University of Fine Arts.

There are now more than 280 universities and colleges in the country. Talents possessed of broad knowledge of different areas are growing in these seats of learning.

Among them are young people of the new generation who are exalting the honor of the country as doctors and associate doctors in their twenties and thirties and renowned artists and sportsmen.

Dr. Kim So In and Associate Doctor Kim Nam-hyok in their twenties who are recognized as promising mathematician and physicist of the country are among them.

New grounds are being broken in the scientific and technological fields of the country and a great progress is being made in the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy thanks to the inexhaustible creative initiatives of the viable young intellectuals who are deeply conscious of their mission for the times.

KCNA Reviews 10 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK1003055493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 10 (KCNA)—All the papers here today editorially call for defending the socialist country like an impregnable fortress by thoroughly implementing the order issued by Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, to the whole country, the entire people and the whole army to switch over to a semi-war state.

Carried in the press are an account of the 100,000-strong Pyongyang mass rally and demonstration held to fulfil the order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, the speech of Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the mass rally and words of people's army soldiers and working people vowing to work and live in a revolutionary way, keeping themselves in full combat readiness.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a solidarity letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from Chairman Manuel Vargas Loureiro and vice-chairman and director of the International Affairs Department Antonio Feu of the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

The press gives an account of a national meeting held to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Peasants Union by President Kim Il-song on March 10, 1928 and a report of Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the meeting.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings and congratulatory letters from international and regional organisations, foreign political parties and public organisations on his birthday, Indian papers carried a brief history of his revolutionary activities and a Ugandan political figure published a talk regarding "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building", a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Foreign personages and media highly praised Marshal Kim Chong-il as an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, and foreign papers introduced Kimchongilia, an immortal flower, says the daily.

The paper runs an article titled "Slogan 'When the Party Is Determined, We Can Do Anything!' Is Our People's Slogan of Conviction."

Papers devote much space to articles denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercise which has entered a full-dress stage and domestic and foreign reaction to it.

Coed Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification", manifested her determination to actively turn out in the movement for the release of prisoners of conscience, when interviewed by a South Korean reporter, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article exposing the truth behind the murder of woman Yun Kum-i by a U.S. imperialist aggression army soldier in South Korea last year.

Papers give an account of a meeting held in Pyongyang to mark the 25th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius and the first anniversary of the proclamation of the republic.

According to the press, a speech was delivered by the head of the DPRK delegation at the 49th session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and foreign delegates exposed human rights violations by South Korea and Japan at the session.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Indian papers published articles condemning the unjustifiable attitude of the Japanese Government toward the problem of "comfort women for the army" and that the Bulgarian paper TRIBUNA exposed that the Japanese authorities distorted historical facts and fabricated things on Korea.

Foreign news columns of the paper includes reports that the Chinese People's Daily published an editorial titled "We Cannot Lose the Traditions of Hard Struggle," a meeting marking the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Third Eastern Front was held in Cuba, and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights flailed human rights violations by Israel.

The paper carries an article under the title "Dominationist Essence of Imperialism Cannot Change."

South Korea

Reports, Reaction on DPRK Nuclear Issue Continue

Plutonium Said Extracted

SK1003124493 Seoul YONHAP in English GMT 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government presumes that North Korea's plutonium is in an amount enough to make two to three nuclear bombs, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN and KYODO News Service here reported Wednesday. Quoting a source at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the medias said the Tokyo Government believes there is much possibility that North Korea has extracted 16 to 24 kilograms of plutonium, an amount enough to produce two to three nuclear bombs.

Japan based the estimate on the assumption that North Korea's experimental atomic reactor of 5,000kw class had been smoothly run from 1986 to 1990 when its operation was suspended. The Stockholm International Peace Institute earlier published a report to the effect that it would be possible for North Korea to stockpile by 1995 plutonium in an amount enough to make four to seven nuclear weapons. North Korea, while admitting to extracting plutonium, asserts that they had extracted only a tiny amount from a damaged fuel bar and that the plutonium extraction was not for the development of nuclear weapons.

DPRK 'Defensive Measures' Possible

SK1003085993 Seoul YONHAP in English GMT 93

[Text] United Nations, March 10 (YONHAP)—North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon warned Tuesday that a war could break out at any time due to the South Korea-U.S. joint "Team Spirit" military exercise that started in Korea on Monday. North Korea would retaliate if South Korea and the United States encroached on even a small tract of its land, Pak said in an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS at the U.N. headquarters.

Asked about the International Atomic Energy Agency's request for special investigations of two suspect nuclear facilities near yongbyon, pak said North Korea would never accept the demand. Even if the United Nations Security Council enacted sanctions against for refusing the inspections, Pyongyang would never bow to pressure, he said. If it happened, North Korea would take defensive measures. He accused the United States of trying to use the IAEA to confirm data it collected from U-2 and SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft.

ROK Chairman Briefs U.S. Officials

SK1003023493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 9 (YONHAP)—Kong No-myong, southern-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), said Tuesday there could be no progress in relations between South and North Korea unless the North Korean nuclear issue was resolved. Kong said he had briefed the administration of President Bill Clinton on the South Korean position during talks with U.S. officials, including Peter Tarnoff, who is designated by Clinton to become undersecretary of state for political affairs. Kong also met with William Clarke, assistant state secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Winston Lord, who is picked by Clinton to replace Clarke. He said he had exchanged views with these and other U.S. officials on North Korean nuclear problems.

Speaking to reporters at the Korean embassy here, Kong said there was a possibility that the situation involving North Korea could develop rapidly if Pyongyang refused to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conduct special inspections on its nuclear facilities by March 25. The IAEA is expected to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council then, Kong said. Kong said he and U.S. officials discussed measures to counter various North Korean actions, but he declined to disclose details of the measures. Noting that North Korea has been reacting strongly against the IAEA request for special inspections, Kong said South Korea plans to persuade Pyongyang not to take drastic action such as abrogation of the nuclear safeguard agreement it signed with the IAEA.

Kong said he advised the U.S. Government to be cautious in its relations with North Korea as long as the North Korean nuclear issue is not resolved. Kong said South Korea and the United States shared the view that North Korea could possess enough plutonium to manufacture one nuclear bomb. It was clear to outsiders that North Korea was serious about developing nuclear weapons as there was evidence of it having conducted tests on a trigger mechanism for nuclear bombs, he said. North Korea is hiding two storage tanks for nuclear waste materials near No. 2 nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang. Yet, North Korea was insisting that these two tanks are military facilities, Kong said. The IAEA is also convinced that North Korea is proceeding to make nuclear weapons by producing plutonium not in grams but in kilogram units, Kong said. Kong was scheduled to leave Washington Wednesday for Japan where he is expected to hold similar talks with Japanese Government officials.

ROK Ministers: Issue Precedes Talks

SK1003064393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0615 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Unification-related ministers agreed Wednesday that North Korea should clear up suspicions over its nuclear development program and accept special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In their first meeting since President Kim Yong-sam took office, Unification Minister Han Wan-sang and 16 other ministers with responsibilities related to unification received a briefing on North Korea's nuclear program from Ambassador to Geneva Yi Si-yong, chief South Korean delegate to the IAEA. The meeting discussed the unconditional repatriation to North Korea of Yi In-mo, captured in the Korean war and held here ever since because he refused to defect, a source said.

It was decided to pursue policies of coexistence and mutual prosperity on the basis of national consensus and to resume dialogue with North Korea. It was also decided to set up a "strategic meeting" under the unification-related ministerial meeting, comprising the unification, foreign, chief presidential secretary and the director of the Agency for National Security Planning, to improve the efficiency and capability of the government to make quick responses to North Korea-related problems.

It was reaffirmed that Seoul won't substantially improve relations with Pyongyang, nor give it economic assistance, unless the nuclear suspicion is cleared away. Han told the meeting that Seoul should have a positive and cooperative posture to guide Pyongyang into opening its doors and changing, which might eventually lead to it becoming a member of the international community.

Missions To Stress Unchanged Policy

SK1003093693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0852 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry instructed all of its overseas missions to explain to their host countries that South Korea's nuclear policy toward North Korea has not changed with the change of administration, officials said Wednesday. The action comes after press reports that President Kim Yong-sam's administration, two weeks in office, may be more flexible in inter-Korean dealings.

Ranking insiders suggested that Seoul will no longer link the nuclear issue with inter-Korean economic cooperation. "We have made clear to all the overseas staff members that the link will remain so that there will be no misunderstanding," a Ministry official said. Kong No-myong, Seoul-side negotiator for inter-Korean nuclear talks, is touring the United States and Japan for the same purpose, he said.

Previous government under No Tae-u said no to any economic cooperation with Pyongyang unless there was substantive progress in inter-Korean nuclear talks which Seoul hopes will open North Korean military installations to surprise inspections. Amb. Yi Si-yong, South Korean representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was in Seoul to brief key cabinet members Wednesday on the seriousness of North Korea's nuclear program and to advise against any hasty policy change toward Pyongyang, officials said.

Commentary Examines Nuclear Issue

SK0903140693 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 5 Mar 93 p 5

[Column by Kim Kyong-won, director of the Institute for Social Sciences and former ROK Ambassador to the United States: "The New Government and North Korea's Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] A newly inaugurated government, in general, has to prioritize its policies. This is especially true for a government pursuing reform. The Kim Yong-sam-led government also declared "eradication of corruption and irregularities," "revitalization of economy" and "establishment of the principle of the state" as priority goals.

However, the practical priority of policies is not to be always decided on merely by the leader's will to implement the policies. In other words, the new government may encounter a totally unexpected situation, abrupt incidents, problems left unsolved by its precedent government, and other problems that require urgent solution by the new government. For example, President Clinton, even at the early stage of his rule, was compelled to deal with such foreign affairs as the situations in Bosnia and the Middle East, although the priority of such affairs was relatively lower than other policies he put forward during his election campaign.

The Demand for Special Inspection Is Reasonable:

It appears that in the case of President Kim Yong-sam, he may also have to immediately respond to foreign affairs. Of them, the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons is a question which the new government should not leave as it is. The previous government did not seriously deal with North Korea's nuclear issue at first. However, since the issue became the target of international attention, it assumed the position that it would refuse the progress in North-South relations until the nuclear issue is resolved. When the government signed the North-South basic agreement in December 1982, it did not put forward the settlement of the nuclear issue as a precondition for North-South relations. In 1992, however, the government took a hardline position of linking the Team Spirit exercise with the nuclear issue. Nevertheless, the government failed to show a clear stance as to whether North Korea's nuclear issue is linked with economic exchange and to what extent and how such exchange was actually carried out.

As I pointed out in this column on 6 November 1991, if North Korea does not voluntarily cooperate on the nuclear issue, international society will have to mobilize forcible diplomatic steps against North Korea, just as in the case of Iraq. This is something that one can predict in advance. This being the case, the recent demand for special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is natural. The essential condition in dealing with this issue is to have positive awareness of the nature of the issue of nuclear weapons and to assume a flexible and creative attitude on policies and means required for solving the nuclear issue.

Suspicion on Nuclear Weapons Disturbs Reunification:

Some people in our country tend not to seriously regard North Korea's nuclear issue. Some people doubt that North Korea is really developing nuclear weapons while some others think that even if it is developing, this will not be serious problem. To make the matter worse, some people even think that we will need nuclear weapons after national reunification. This idea is cherished among those who lack in knowledge on the basic nature of nuclear weapons.

First, when North Korea comes to have nuclear weapons, we will be forced to either rely on the United States' protection forever or to possess nuclear weapons ourselves. The former is not practically feasible. As for the latter case, since North and South of Korea are not likely to have the second-stage attacking capabilities, advantage of the first-stage preemptive attack would be very great. Thus, the situation will be unstable.

Second, it is unlikely that the ROK will have the capability to launch a second-stage nuclear attack, even after the reunification. In view of our geographical condition, scale of budget, and the size of the target state of attack, both the hardening [in English as published] of nuclear bases and nuclear mobile deployment [in English as published] have no feasibility. In other words, our nuclear weapons may result in evoking the rival's temptation for preemptive attack, instead of playing the role of deterrent means.

Lastly, I recall the question made by a foreign scholar whom I met at an international conference. He asked: If a unified Korea will have considerable industrial capabilities, 1.5 million troops, and even nuclear weapons, do you think the neighboring big powers would accept the reunification of the Korean peninsula? He meant that suspicion on North Korea's nuclear weapons serve as a serious obstacle to reunification.

North Korea's nuclear suspicion should be clarified by all means. North Korea should convince international society that it has no intention to develop, produce, or possess nuclear weapons for the sake of the safety of all Koreans in the North and the South, of stability in the Northeast Asia, and of our national reunification. Nevertheless, North Korea refused the IAEA's special inspections. It is consistently maintaining its hardline stance. This is the very factor making us worried, and is the reason why we should work out effective and creative measures. We should neither push ahead with improving North-South relations without linking it with North Korea's nuclear issue nor should we rely on the formula of simple, mechanical linking. The goal of our policy toward North Korea is not to implement the concrete plans that our side have advanced but to make North Korea change its attitude and act toward a desirable direction.

Change in North Korean Position Should Be Encouraged:

Therefore, North Korea's nuclear issue should not be considered an independent issue separated from other issues. This issue should be dealt with on the basis of basic conditions, the phased and final goals of our policy on North Korea, and the dynamic judgment of effective measures for the implementation of our policy. To solve the nuclear issue, we should reflect various factors including defense, economic, and political, as well as domestic and foreign affairs in the policy so that this policy is a consistent line. I think it is necessary for the new government to review North Korea's nuclear issue from the beginning.

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ROK To 'Unconditionally' Return Yi In-mo to DPRK

SK1003070093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to unconditionally hand back North Korean guerrilla Yi In-mo, captured in 1952, informed sources said Wednesday. The government will call a meeting of ministers related to unification Thursday morning to discuss details such as timing and method, the sources said. Yi will probably be returned to Pyongyang as early as this month, they said.

Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-tae, meanwhile, said after a meeting of unification-related ministers Wednesday that the government will call a "strategic meeting" Thursday to finalize its position with regard to Yi's repatriation. The meeting will be participated by Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong, and Director of the Agency for National Security Planning Kim Tok, Song said. Yi's repatriation could have a positive impact on inter-Korean ties, on ice over such things as North Korea's nuclear development program.

Since January 1992, North Korea has demanded the immediate return of Yi, who has spent most of the last 40 years in prison because he refused to renounce communism. Yi was said to be working as a war correspondent during the Korean war but was captured while a member of a guerrilla organization on Mt. Jiri after the North Korean army had retreated to the north.

DPRK Grain Harvest To Fall Short by 2 Million Tons

SK0903101093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0905 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—North Korea's grain harvest shrank 3. 6 percent to 4.27 million tons last year from 4.43 million tons in 1991, the Rural Development Administration (RDA) said Tuesday. The rice crop was 1.53 million tons last year, off 6.7 percent from 1.64 million tons in 1991 and just 28.7 percent of South Korea's 5.33 million tons, the RDA said, citing materials from international sources.

North Korea's grain harvest has fallen since 1986 as the acreage under cultivation was reduced and pests spread across the country, it said. The Stalinist country needs an estimated 6.5 million tons of grain this year to feed itself, so it will be around 2 million tons short, creating a dire situation. Although Pyongyang planned to import 1.4 million tons of grain last year, it bought just 830,000 tons.

Envoys to U.S., Japan, China, Russia Profiled

SK1003025893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Following are profiles of the new ambassadors to the United States, Japan, China, and Russia designated in the first reshuffle of envoys Tuesday.

Han Sung-su (57), ambassador to Washington.

The competent English-speaker played an active role in South Korea-U.S. parliamentary diplomacy during his lawmaking days with the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). The former trade and industry minister is expected to use his experience and close relations with ranking U.S. trade officials to settle pending Seoul-Washington trade issues. Educated at York University, Britain, after graduating from Yonsei University, Han has taught at Seoul National, Cambridge, Harvard and Tokyo Universities.

Kong No-myong (61), ambassador to Tokyo.

The chancellor of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) is better known for his activity as Seoul-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission and spokesman for the high-level inter-Korean talks. Distinguished for leadership, flexibility, persuasiveness, and tenacity, Kong was frequently recommended as a ministerial nominee for national unification, foreign affairs, and national security planning.

Also Korea's first ambassador to Moscow, Kong gained a deep knowledge in Asian affairs while serving as director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau. A native of Seoul, Kong graduated from the Law College at Seoul National University and was consul-general to Cairo and ambassador to Brazil.

Kim Sok-kyu (57), ambassador to Moscow.

The thorough diplomat served as ambassador to Paraguay and Italy thanks to his rare competency in Spanish. Recognized for his performance in resolving the so-called Koreagate scandal in the 1970s, Kim was picked as director-general of the American Bureau. He studied political science at Seoul National University.

Hwang Pyong-tae (58), ambassador to Beijing.

The former assistant economic planning minister and president of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies often earned praise from President Kim Yong-sam for his rich knowledge, precise analysis, and extraordinary ideas. Despite his failure in the presidential election in 1987, Kim kept Hwang as his braintruster and entrusted him with the project of the three-party merger in 1989. A graduate of the Economics Department at Seoul National University, Hwang won a doctorate in political science at the University of California at Berkeley.

4 Koreans Chosen as UN Secretariat Staff; 11 Waiting

SK1003012893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Four South Koreans have been chosen for the U.N. Secretariat staff and 11 put on the priority waiting list, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The four are Cha Ki-ho and Kang Sung-won of New York, and Yi Chae-ho, a certified public accountant, and Pak To-yun, a public consultant, from Seoul. The 11 are waiting to fill vacated posts.

Australia 3d Largest 1992 Trade Surplus Partner

SK1003042893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Australia, by intensifying import restrictions, racked up the third largest trade surplus with South Korea last year after Japan and Saudi Arabia, according to the Trade, Industry and Resources Ministry. Korea suffered a trade deficit of 1.99 billion U.S. dollars with Australia, down from a year earlier but largest following 7.86 billion dollars with Japan and 2.86 billion dollars with Saudi Arabia. The 1991 deficit figures were 8.76 billion dollars with Japan, 2.44 billion dollars with China, 2.29 billion dollars with Saudi Arabia and 2.02 billion dollars with Australia.

Australia regulates the importation of 15 Korean items, the same number as the United States and only one less than the European Community. So far this year, the country has effected regulations against seven imports from Korea, including anti-dumping investigations of high-density polypropylene and foam polystyrene. Between 1990 and 1992, six Korean items were cleared of dumping charges filed by Australian industry, almost half of the number of Korean items that had faced charges in the period.

Swedish Foreign Minister To Visit 12-13 Mar

SK0903090393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas makes an unofficial visit to Seoul from Friday [12 March] to Saturday, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Af Ugglas will call on Prime Minister Hwang In-song and Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu to discuss matters of mutual interest and political developments in each other's country. The visiting foreign minister has served as chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) since last December. Korea and Sweden established diplomatic relations in 1959.

Chongwadae Announces Additional Secretaries

SK1003013793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The presidential Secretariat has decided to employ two more secretaries, one for science and technology and the other for labor, for a total of eight members in its economic division, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] spokesman said Wednesday. Meanwhile, Yi Yong-tak, director-general of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau, has been designated secretary for treasury and finance, and Han Tok-su, director-general of the Electronics and Information Industry Bureau at the Trade, Industry and Resources industry, has been named secretary for industry, Chongwadae officials said. Current Secretary for Industry, Pak Un-so, is to be named first assistant trade, industry and resources minister, and current Secretary for Treasury and Finance, Yi Chin-mu, is to be transferred to an organization affiliated with the Finance Ministry.

Kim Instructs Ministers To Facilitate Business Activity

SK0903033193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed his economic ministers Tuesday to relax or revoke rules, including those recommended by the business community, that stand in the way of business activities. The ministers should forge themselves into a strong team that showed the public a united, hard-working government, Kim said in his second meeting with his economic ministers since being sworn in late last month.

He told Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong to include a stock market stimulus package in the 100-day plan for a new economy. The plan is due for completion by March 20 for implementation in April. Trade, Industry and Resources Minister Kim Chol-su was ordered to make effort to reduce trade friction with the United States, and Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik was told to complete a new five-year plan by June so that it may be implemented during the second half of the year.

Foreign Ministry To Reshuffle 35 Senior Diplomats

SK0903130993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1239 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The government has finalized a plan to effect a sweeping reshuffle of 35 senior diplomats including the ambassadors to the U.S., Japan, China and Russia. The planned reshuffle, approved by President Kim Yong-sam on Tuesday, involves 28 overseas mission chiefs. They would be formally appointed upon arrival of their agrements from their would- be host countries.

It was learned that in the shakeup, former Trade-Industry Minister Han Sung-su was designated as ambassador to the U.S.: Kong No-myong, director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), as amabassador to Japan: Hwang Pyong-tae, former lawmaker of the Democratic Liberal Party, as ambassador to China: And Kim Sok-kyu, IFANS research member, as ambassador to Russia. No Chang-hui, former vice foreign minister, was designated as ambassador to Britain; Chang Son-sop, chief of protocol, as ambassador to France; Kim Tae-chi, ambassador at large, as ambassador to Germany; and Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung as ambassador to Geneva. Ambassador to the United Nations Yu Chong-ha is expected to remain unchanged while ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil is to head the IFANS. Ambassadors Hyon Hong-chu to the U.S., No Chae-won to China, Yi Hong-ku to Britian, Sin Tong-won to Germany, Han Chol-su to Brazil, Yi Si-yong to Sweden, Kim Chwa-su to Bulgaria and consul general in Hamburg Pak Chun-pom are to retire.

At the Foreign Ministry head office, Son Chun-yong, now economic and trade ambassador, was designated as second assistant foreign minister, IFANS research member Choe Tong-chin as chief of protocol, Pyon Chong-kyu, a Chongwadae secretary, as director-general for Mideast and African affairs, and ambassador to Ghana Sin Hyo-hon as director-general for international treaties.

Other newly designated diplomats and their new assignments are:

Ambassador at large Chae Ui-sok—ambassador to Sweden;
Ambassador at large Pyon Chong-hyon—ambassador to Brazil;
Ambassador for advice to Kyonggi Province Kim Nae-song—ambassador to Finland;
IFANS Research Department Chief Son Myong-hyon—ambassador to Singapore;
Environment Ambassador Kwon In-hyok—ambassador to Algeria;
IFANS research officer Kim Hung-su—ambassador to Bulgaria;
IFANS research officer Kim Sung-ho—ambassador to Libya;
Director-General for Mid-east and African Affairs Choe Sang-tok—ambassador to South Africa;
IFANS research officer Yi Tong-son—ambassador to Namibia;
IFANS research officer Cho Kyu-tae—ambassador to Yemen;
IFANS research officer Song Chong-kyong—ambassador to Nepal;
Diplomacy Association Secretary-General Kong Son-sop—ambassador to Ethiopia;
Deputy Director-General for Culture and Information
Cooperation Hwang Pu-hong—ambassador to Ghana;
Minister at embassy in Tokyo Nam Hong-u—consul general in Hong Kong; Deputy Director of the Office of Foreign Policy Planning
Yang Se-hun—consul general in Honolulu;
Director-General for International Treaties Yi Chang-ho—consul general in Chicago;
Deputy Director-General for Asian Affairs Yun Hae-chung—consul general in Shanghai;
IFANS research officer Hwang Kil-sin—consul general in Hamburg;
IFANS research officer U Chong-ho—consul general in Fukuoka;
Minister at Embassy in India Pak Kyong-tae—consul general in Agana;
Consul General in Chicago Kim Chong-ki—minister at the embassy in Washington;
Director at the Korea Foundation Yun Chi-chun—minister at the embassy in Tokyo.

President Kim Calls for New Military Role

SK0603095293 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 6 Mar 93 p 2

["Gist" of speech given by ROK President Kim Yong-sam at the Korea Military Academy commencement ceremony in Seoul on 5 Mar]

[Text] Great reforms are taking place all over the world. During the past four years while you were fulfilling your ambition to travel the road of learning and training at Hwarangdae [location of military academy], an era ended in the world. The thick ice of the East-West Cold War, which divided the world into antagonism and confrontation for nearly 50 years, has melted. However, we still have a long way to go before the new order of reconciliation and cooperation takes root, to which we have been ardently looking forward, for at this very moment, we can see a powder keg of conflicts in East Europe and the Middle East.

The fierce movement for heavier armament is also being waged in our neighborhood. In particular, the Korean peninsula failed to free itself from the title, "the last Cold War zone." Having entered the United Nations together, North and South Korea are seeking new relations through dialogue. However, North Korea has not abandoned its strategy of communizing the South. Suspicions about North Korea's nuclear development have become a particularly serious factor, causing worries about peace not only on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia but also in the whole world.

It is unfortunate that North Korea faces a forced nuclear inspection by an international watchdog body because it refuses mutual nuclear inspections between fellow countrymen. The North Korean authorities should accept mutual nuclear inspections of the North and the South at an early date. We should open a new era of having the nation itself solve its own problems. The goal of the new administration's unification policy is not to isolate North Korea as an enemy but to embrace it as fellow countrymen and to seek togetherness.

If the nation's existence is endangered, neither renovation of the state and a new economic system nor national reunification can be achieved. I will maintain our security more firmly than ever before. I will resolutely punish, along with our armed forces and our people, any attempt to threaten peace. We should change and renovate our security policy.

First, I will concentrate on increasing our overall security capabilities. The time is past when only military power decided victory and defeat in war. Only when military capability is harmoniously combined with diplomatic, economic, and social capabilities, as well as with the people's spirit, can our security posture be rock-firm.

Second, we should more actively try to promote the driving force of security. Peace can be maintained only when one is capable of keeping it through one's own efforts. We should make military power more scientific and modern, as well as make the troops more seasoned [chongyehwahada], thus enhancing our independence. Developing combat functions by having all factors act in harmony is also a shortcut to enhancing independent security capabilities.

Third, I will pursue an advanced security policy. To this end, we must establish a Korean-style security system in conformity with our strategic environment. Our security must be future-oriented to prepare not only for today's threats but for the time after reunification.

Last, we must make more contributions to the security of Northeast Asia and to world peace by developing a system of international cooperation for security. The road a soldier must walk is a road of sacrifice for the country, not for his own prosperity. A compliment conferred on a soldier by the fatherland for faithfully fulfilling his duty is more precious than any order. However, we went through unhappy times when the honor that should go to the majority of soldiers, who were on the correct path, was damaged.

I believe we must remedy these wrongs. Civil and military services stem from same root. They are not two different trees. They are two wheels that protect the country as well as give the people freedom and happiness. The sword and the pen have different roles. We are in a civilian age for the first time in about 30 years. The army has to find its new role in conformity with the new age. It should be an army that defends the country from outside threats as well as the people's beloved army acting in concert with them.

Kim Yong-sam Addresses Air Force Academy Commencement

SK1003092493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—North Korea's refusal to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's special inspections of its nuclear facilities aroused suspicion and unrest not only in South Korea but all over the world, President Kim Yong-sam told Air Force cadets Wednesday.

Without the solution of this problem, national reconciliation and reunification would not be discussed, he told a graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy in Songmudae, South Chungchong Province. Any forces threatening "our peace" would face painful retaliation, the first civilian commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in 32 years stressed.

Kim said that his administration attached as much importance to national defense and security as the previous military governments ever did. Defending a nation required a total commitment of military, economic, diplomatic, social and moral power, he said. "Our

Armed Forces must continue to develop through modernization and improvement programs to become a self-reliant force that can also contribute to world peace," he added.

The government would give the Air Force modern equipment as its role in modern warfare was increasingly important, Kim said. Noting that the Armed Forces are strong when they have the full confidence of the people, the president said elements that reduce public trust in the military should be eliminated. "You must correct what ought to be corrected, and alter what ought to altered," he said. In the new era of civilian government, the military should change its posture to truly become the people's Armed Forces, Kim concluded.

New Military Chief Views Need for Reform

SK0903092693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Gen. Kim Tong-chin was sworn in as the army's new chief of staff in a ceremony Tuesday attended by Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Gen. Robert Riscassi, commander of the U.S. Forces Korea. Kim said in a speech at the ceremony, at army headqarters in Kyeryongdae, South Chungchong Province, that the military should newly recognize the reason for its existence and reform itself to lay the foundation for a second spurt.

"The army, in particular, should prepare to work out a new strategy for national unification and it should maintain the highest morale through phenomenal improvements in personnel mangement and welfare," Kim said. "Furthermore, the army should foster civilian-military relations appropriate to the new era and establish a new position to be loved by the people." The new commmander strongly said he would do away with irrational practices and irregularities, and take the lead in pursuing reforms.

Outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong asked the army to unite around the new chief and to actively participate in creating a new Korea, which he called a "mission of the times and national aspiration." Earlier in the morning, President Kim Yong-sam presented letters of appointment to the new army chief and Gen. Kim Chae-chang, deputy commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

NSP To Reorganize To Carry Out 'True Mission'

SK1003093593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] will complete the reshaping of its organization and functions by the end of this month, an NSP spokesman said Wednesday. The agency would disband those divisions that have traditionally meddled in politics and strengthen its activities of collecting and analyzing information, an external relations official said. NSP director Kim Tok on Tuesday reported to President Kim Yong-sam on the restructuring plan, the aim of which was to make the NSP politically neutral and reinforce its ability to carry out its true mission, he said.

NSP agents will be prohibited from contacting government agencies and organizations without approval and their job will be strictly limited to investigation of spies and subversives, but not political activists, he said. Four assistant director posts will be abolished and departments with similar responsibilities consolidated. Local NSP offices will be closed unless they are indispensable for counter-espionage purposes. NSP will set up a mechanism to cooperate with the private sector and share any useful information that it acquires, the spokesman said.

Ex-NSP Chief Denies Involvement in Anti-Opposition Acts

SK0803121793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1109 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Chang Se-tong, a former head of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), Monday denied charges that the NSP was involved in the 1987 violence designed to disrupt the founding of an opposition party. Meeting with reporters at the southern branch of the Seoul district prosecutor's office, Chang admitted to giving NSP funds to two former lawmakers suspected of having played a leading role in the violence. "But, the money given them was not for use in disrupting the birth of the opposition party but was a reward for the information they furnished during exchanges of opinions with me on matters necessary for government policy making," Chang said.

The two ex-solons to whom Chang gave NSP money were Yi Taek-hui and Yi Taek-ton of the now defunct new Korea Democratic Party. Chang said NSP agents in his days used to meet both ruling and opposition lawmakers along with people in various other areas in order to collect information necessary for the preparation of state policies. "Depending on cases, we paid cash rewards for the information we obtained from them," he said.

Chang, accompanied by lawyer Yi Yang-u, the legal advisor to ex-president Chon Tu-hwan, showed up at the prosecution to be questioned over his role, if any, in the violence. The two lees were known to have masterminded the violence in which scores of stick-wielding youths attacked an opposition meeting to disrupt the founding of the unification Democratic Party.

The party was then being created by the forces supporting Kim Yong-sam, now the president, and Kim Tae-chung, another now-retired opposition leader. The two Kims' supporters earlier bolted from the then major opposition new Korea Democratic Party after its figurehead leader Yi Min-u inclined to reconcile with the ruling camp.

Asked how much he gave to the two men, Chang said he couldn't disclose the amount because it is a classified information. Asserting that all he did with the two Lees was to meet them to exchange opinions, the ex-NSP director said he never handed out instructions of any kind to them. "First of all, they were legislators. An NSP director cannot order lawmakers to do this or that, can he?" Chang said. A prosecution source said however that the prosecution are almost sure that Chang directly ordered the violence in a bid to keep a hardline opposition party from being born.

Saying he received a report about the violence only after it occured, Chang said he understands that the effort of the two Yi's to keep the opposition party from becoming split had somewhat resulted in the violence. "So far as I know, no single member of my NSP got involved in the violence beforehand," Chang said.

The New Korea Democratic Party was founded in January 1985 by those opposition politicians fresh from the political ban slapped upon all opposition men upon the seizure of power by Chon Tu-hwan in 1980. Both Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung were still under the political ban at that time and the NKDP presidency therefore went to Yi Min-u.

Justice Minister Stresses Anti-Corruption Battle

SK1003104893 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 93 p 30

[Interview with ROK Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui by correspondent Chang Hyon-kyu in Seoul on 8 Mar; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Newly appointed Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui said on 8 March: I was unexpectedly appointed to the post of justice minister. I will make every effort to solve current national problems. These issues are to root out social corruption and to establish new national principles.

Kim was appointed to the 24th attorney general on 7 December in 1992. Only three months after this appointment, he has become justice minister.

The following is a question and answer session:

[Correspondent] What are your impressions of your appointment?

[Kim Tu-hui] This is unexpected. I did my best as a prosecutor for the past 27 years. I am reluctant to leave this job. I will make every effort, however, to successfully carry out the new government's tasks by rooting out social corruption and by establishing national principles.

This is an important time historically as we launch the new government. I feel a sense of responsibility as justice minister.

[Correspondent] When did you receive notification of your appointment?

[Kim] Regarding the appointment of justice minister, I never directly met with any relevant officials at Chongwadae [presidential residence]. Presidential Chief Secretary Pak Kwan-yong informed me of the appointment by telephone on 7 March.

[Correspondent] Some people say that your movement to another post only three months after your appointment as attorney-general runs counter to the purpose of the introduction of the tenure system in the office of the attorney general. What do you think of this?

[Kim] Only three months and two days after my appointment as attorney general, I move to another post. I am reluctant to leave this job without completing my legal tenure as attorney general. I think, however, that I was appointed justice minister because the Ministry of Justice should be responsible for carrying out national tasks in a historically important era. President Kim Yong-sam, who has the power to appoint, is also well aware of the purpose of the tenure system in the office of the attorney general. Therefore, the tenure system of attorney general will be observed in the future.

[Correspondent] What is your prospect for the next appointment of attorney general?

[Kim] The prosecution's operation should be continued. Therefore, I will ask President Kim Yong-sam to appoint a new attorney general as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] There are many pending issues to be resolved by you, such as the issue of appointing high-ranking prosecutors. What is your plan for the personnel reshuffle?

[Kim] There are many vacancies in the posts of high-ranking prosecutors. Therefore, I will conduct a personnel reshuffle as soon as possible. It is necessary to establish a new system to solve the national pending issues based on cooperation among the people.

Ministry Wants To Limit Political Envoys' Tours

SK0803011093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry wants a change in its employment law to limit political appointees to a maximum three-year tour as an ambassador, officials said Monday. Special employees, who have not taken the diplomatic service exam but were selected for specific duties, will be recruited in open competition and given the same privileges, they said. These recommendations will be included in the ministry's briefing to President Kim Yong-sam amd submitted to the National Assembly for approval in around the middle of the year.

Regulations on employing retired and non-career diplomats were introduced by President Chon Tu-hwan. These envoys, many of them from the military, were in principle limited to a single three-year post but often went on extended tours. "The politically appointed posts were commonly used to give favors to presidential aides and military officials because of the ambiguities in the regulations," an official said.

Special employees for relatively new diplomatic fields such as trade, science and the environment will be chosen through publicized competitions under the revised law. "The ministry needs these experts, but they have a difficult time passing the diplomatic service exams because the tests concentrate on general knowledge and foreign languages," the official said. Special employees will have the same opportunities for promotion and overseas posts as exam employees, he said.

All DLP Lawmakers To Disclose Assets by 20 Mar

SK1003063693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0538 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], in response to President Kim Yong-sam's anti-corruption drive, has decided to let its lawmakers disclose their personal assets. Prior to the disclosures, DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, party Secretary-General Choe Hyong-u, Policymaker Kim Chong-ho and Floor Leader Kim Yong-ku will make their personal assets public. The decision was made at a meeting of senior party officials on Wednesday morning. Kang Chae-sop, the party spokesman, told reporters after the meeting that all DLP lawmakers and major party post holders would disclose their personal assets by March 20.

"If the opposition Democratic Party proposes dialogue with us on this issue, we will talk with them," Kang said. "But we have no intention of delaying our decision because of it." As for objects of disclosure, the DLP lawmakers and others will be required in principle to make their real estate holdings and movable assets public while leaving the decision to disclose other valuables such as paintings and antiques as well as unregistered stocks and public bonds to their discretion, sources said. The disclosed assets would not be checked by any authorities.

Earlier Wednesday, secretary-general Choe told reporters that the DLP plans to hold a meeting with the Democratic Party to work out an agreement under which lawmakers and other politicians could disclose their assets. The meeting, which is expected to take place next week, is to be attended by the floor leaders and policymakers in addition to the secretaries-general of the two parties. The two parties will negotiate the method and extent of assets disclosures, Choe said.

"We intend to carry out these negotiations openly so that there is no trace of suspicion on details of our discussions," said Choe. "That's why we hope to let all three senior party post holders attend the talks." Choe's remark was seen by some observers as a setback from an earlier decision by the ruling party to let its own lawmakers and senior party members disclose their personal assets. But there had been resistance among some DLP members against the unilateral disclosure because it could force only the ruling party lawmakers and other DLP members to bare themselves public scrutiny and scorn.

DLP To Reorganize Structure, Reduce Employees

SK1003073793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The governing Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] decided Wednesday to cut 46.8 percent of the clerical employees at its secretariat, reducing the number from 1,722 to 916 as part of its restructuring program. The program, worked out in support of President Kim Yong-sam's reform efforts, calls for trimming the size of the central party's secretariat from 23 offices and bureaus and 56 departments, to 15 offices and bureaus and 36 departments.

The decision came at a meeting of top party officials presided over by DLP executive chairman Kim Chong-pil. Restructuring is necessary because Kim Yong-sam has pledged to pursue politics that do not need money. He has vowed that he won't receive political funds from any organization or individual during the five years of his presidential tenure.

The Democratic Liberal Party grew enormously during the March 24, 1992, parliamentary elections and Dec. 18 presidential election. The DLP will reduce the number of deputy secretaries-general and chiefs of policy coordinating offices from three to one each. It will adjust the number of members of 23 special committees downward while abolishing the head of the steering office of the politicy committee, and the deputy chiefs of the civil appeals office and the policy coordination office.

The party will also reorganize its city and provincial chapters, abolishing the deputy secretary-general of the chapters in Inchon, Kwangju, Taejon, North Chungchong Province and Cheju Province. It will cut down the seven department heads down to four or five. The party will abolish chiefs of youths and women party members, who have been paid 600,000 won a month each at 237 local chapters.

As a result of Wednesday's decision, 514 clerical staff at the central party secretariat will be reduced 49.6 percent to 258 and 195 employees of city and provincial chapters will be cut 39 percent to 119. District party organizations will cut their employees 46.8 percent to 539 from 1,013. The party will soon form a personnel committee headed by secretary-general Choe Hyong-u and start selecting employees to be laid off, sources said.

Former DLP Co-Chairman To Resign Posco Chairmanship

SK1003004593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] Pak Tae-chun, former co-chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], is expected to announce his resignation as honorary chairman of

Pohang Iron and Steel Co. [Posco] at a shareholders' meeting scheduled for Friday, sources said yesterday. Rumors have it that the government's ongoing tax probe into the steelmaker is designed to force Pak to withdraw from its management. A POSCO spokesman denied the rumors yesterday.

Pak opposed Kim Yong-sam's nomination as presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party last May. He also refused to help Kim's presidential campaign and announced his retirement from politics shortly before the presidential election.

Hyundai Group Founder To Dissolve Conglomerate

SK1003003093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, said yesterday that he will dissolve the internationally known business conglomerate into smaller, more independent units within the next 12 months. The 78-year-old Chong said he will soon return to the group's management as honorary chairman and will promote Hyundai's gas development in Russia.

Chong made the remarks at Kimpo International Airport after returning from a trip to Southeast Asian countries. He flew out of the country late last month after announcing his resignation from the National Assembly. During his unsuccessful campaign for the presidency last year, Chong promised to make Hyundai more competitive by breaking it up.

Finance Minister To Attempt To Stabilize Stock Market

SK0903074493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Hong Chae- hyong, emerging from a meeting with the president, said on Tuesday he would respect the function of the stock market and try to stabilize it by persuading institutional investors to buy shares. President Kim Yong-sam had a breakfast meeting with all of his economic ministers at Chongwadae. "The United States is building up pressures for Japan and China to open the market and the ripple effect might reach us, so we are preparing for it," Trade, Industry, and Resources Minister Kim Chol-su said afterward. He would send a trade delegation to the United States for talks on trade issues like steel, he said.

"Workers are worrying about unemployment rather than wages, so a special plan to create jobs is necessary," Labor Affairs Minister Yi In-che said. The unemployment rate has soared from 2.4 percent last year to 3 percent in January, he said. Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik said that he would meet with related ministers to discuss intellectual property rights on Thursday and guaranteeing those rights.

Minister: ROK To Take 'Moderate Approach' on Economy

SK1003002793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yi Kyong-sik said yesterday that there would be no radical steps to stimulate the economy despite the protracted economic stagnation. Meeting the press at the integrated government complex in Kwachon, Kyonggi-do, Yi said the economy has shown little signs of recovery since the turn of this year following an estimated two percent growth in the fourth quarter of last year.

"I sympathize in principle with the need to stimulate business activity but the policy priority at the moment should be placed on strengthening industrial competitiveness," said Yi, who also serves as economic planning minister. He said the government will take a moderate approach in activating the economy. "Economic development, from now on, should be measured not by quantity but quality," said Yi. As a way to stimulate the economy, the government will push for bold reforms including the trimming of government regulations and government spending, he said. "To cut administrative red tape, the government will listen to businesses about the difficulties they face," he said.

Touching on the implementation of the real name financial transaction system, the top economic policy maker reiterated his earlier position that it will be conducted in such a way as to minimize its impact on the economy. "The irrational implementation of the system, without due consideration, may cause more problems for small- and medium-size companies than for larger firms," he said. Yi reaffirmed his commitment to reforming other economic sectors. "For instance, the country's tax system needs to be overhauled in many respects but the rash approach may end up placing a greater burden on the general public," he said.

In the meantime, President Kim Yong-sam instructed his economic ministers to relax or revoke rules, including those recommended by the business community, that stand in the way of business activities in a breakfast meeting with them at Chongwadae yesterday. Kim said the ministers should forge themselves into a strong team that will show the public a united, hard-working government. He told Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong to include a stock market stimulus package in the 100-day plan for a new economy. Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Kim Chol-su was ordered to exert efforts to reduce trade friction with the United States.

'State-Invested' Companies' 1992 Sales Rise

SK0903050393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Sales of Korea's 23 state-invested companies rose 14 percent on a boom in the financial, electric and communications sectors, but net profits dropped 2.6 percent last year because of large losses by the Korea Land Development Corp., the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said Tuesday. The state-run enterprises saw turnover grow 14 percent, or 3,434.8 billion won, to 27,927.6 billion won (35.26 billion U.S. dollars) in 1992, and net profit fall 2.6 percent (56.6 billion won) to 2,162.7 billion won. Although their net profit was 7.7 percent, off 1.4 percentage points from 9.1 percent in 1991, it was still higher than the 2.1 percent of private listed incorporated companies.

While the Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) and 17 companies, most in the financial, gas, electric and communications areas, raised sales, five corporations, including the Dai Han Coal Corp. and the Korea Water Resources Corp., marked drops. The 1992 net profit of Korea Land Development Corp. shrank 227.5 billion won to 124.1 billion won due to increases in the supply of below-cost land and in the floatation of debentures, an EPB spokesman said. Last year's biggest earners were KEPCO with a net profit of 763. 6 billion won, Korea Telecom with 574.2 billion won, and the Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corp. with 273.9 billion won.

The Korea Gas Corp. made a 492.9-percent jump in net profit to 83 billion won thanks to a 29.2-percent rise in sales volume and a 11.8-percent rise in gas rates, and the Korea Development Bank raised profit 104.9 percent to 25 billion won on the growth in industrial funds. The total assets of the 23 corporations increased 14.7 percent to 128.48 trillion won and their debt rose 15.9 percent to 101.31 trillion won because of active investment in social infrastructure.

Agricultural Imports Rise 100% After Liberalization

SK1003042793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea liberalized imports of 43 items of farm and marine products last year, resulting in a 100-percent rise in their importation to 60 million U.S. dollars, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [Kotra] said Wednesday. Imports of agricultural products soared 135 percent while those of marine products and livestock products surged 110 percent and 83 percent, respectively.

The United States sold Korea 2.7 billion dollars of farm and marine products, up 0.7 percent from 1991, and China sold 1.19 billion dollars worth, up 17.4 percent. U.S. imports accounted for 35.4 percent in the total farm and marine products, up 0.3 percentage points from a year before. China accounted for 15.6 percent, up 2.3 points.

Burma

Daily Criticizes 'Interference' by 'Other Country'

BK1003031893 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 24 Feb 93 p 4

[Article by Nyan Htet: "A Tale of Two Neighbouring Countries"]

[Text] It is customary for good neighbours to be mutually considerate. Otherwise they cannot be considered to be good neighbours. Resolute observance in not allowing one's territory to be utilized in any way to the detriment of the other is one of the most fundamental codes of conduct of good neighbourliness.

Just as homes may be neighbours in human society so also are there neighbouring nations with common borders. There is constant relationship among such neighbouring nations.

Such relationships may be imbued with goodwill and good neighbourliness or else their relationship tainted with self- interest and dishonesty.

This point can be clearly seen if we take, for example, the case of two neighbouring nations [Burma and Thailand] having thousands of miles in common border within the South-East Asian region. Beginning 40 to 50 years ago, these two neighbouring countries established relationships as two independent, sovereign nations. At that time, both these countries were worried about the danger of communism. One of these neighbouring nations stayed clear of regional bloc conflicts, resolutely adhering to a non-aligned foreign policy and preserved its sovereign integrity on its own. The other nation, on the other hand, joined a military bloc most actively and followed an anti-communist course of action.

At that time, some 'White Chinese' Kuomintang [KMT] elements encroached onto the territory of one country and while it was battling all-out to drive out the aggressors, the neighbouring country allowed the 'White Chinese' KMT to make use of its territory for its own self-interests! It allowed the KMT to have bases and also allowed the KMT to travel to and fro with [as published] their main country.

At the end of 1950's and the beginning of the 1960's, one neighbouring country [Thailand] began to unobtrusively allow insurgent terrorists from the other country to use its territory. But even at that time, that neighbouring country already had within its own territory the seeds of communist insurrection. However, the other country [Burma] remained as a genuine good neighbour. It continued relationships with the government of neighbouring nation on the basis of the fundamental principles of peaceful co-existence and did not allow the insurgents of the other country to make use of its territory. It did not in any way provide indirect psychological or material assistance to such insurgents. Indeed in resolute adherance to the principle of good neighbourliness, it treated the enemies of the neighbouring nation as its own enemy and took decisive action. At the same time, it did not in any way express even one word of criticism concerning the internal affairs, the social system, ideological matters or political conduct of the other nation. As a good neighbour, it resolutely observed the distinction between the respective business of individual countries.

In the 1960's, these two neighbouring countries exercised political systems of different nature. At that time also, one country continued to observe the distinction between the respective affairs of the two countries and did not in any way whatsoever interfere or criticize the other country. At that time even though one country adhered resolulely to the principles of refusing to permit utilization of its territory likely to have adverse effects upon the other country, it did not however say anthing at all when the neighbouring country accepted foreign military bases on its territory. It was considered simply a matter of its own concern. The country which adhered to the principle of good neighbourliness did not at any time make comments, "the actions of the Goverment of the neighbouring country may affect regional peace and tranquillity". Neither did it say such things as "Human rights and rights of existence are being infringed with a lack of human consideration. Another country is also aiding and abetting it in this matter". Not only that this good-neighbourly country did not at any time attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the other country.

But this good neighbourliness was not reciprocated because the other country allowed all kinds of absconding terrorist insurgents and expatriates from the good-neighbourly country into and out of its territory.

To refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of another counry is among the most fundamental codes of conduct in the principles of international relations practised by the world's nations including international organizations. In the same way, refraining from giving assistance to public enemies and destructive elements who are in armed rebellion against the Government of a nation; and with particular emphasis, to be scrupulous in keeping the hands off when such matters are stricty internal affairs devoid of outside interference is also a very basic point in the codes of conduct. The terrorist insurgency is to be considered a strictly internal affairs of a nation if the legitimate Government is fighting these terrorists and destructive elements by its own means without foreign military assistance. In particular, such insurgent terrorists have already been designated as destructive elements by the Western nations since a long time ago in the past. This being the case, such insurgent terrorists certainly cannot now be said to be fighting for a just cause. They have been defined to be destructive terrorist insurgents according to the democratic principles of Western nations. Under such circumstances, they can in no way be considered legitimate. Hence, giving assistance, providing sanctuary, and offering encourangement to such illegitimate organizations can only be considered a grossest form of interference in the internal affairs of another country.

All nations are liable to undergo changes according to world conditions, regional conditions or/and internal conditions. Such changes are bound to continue occurring as long as the world exists. The changes which occur in a nation will be according to its own conditions in its own time and according to its own identity. Any kind of change forced upon a country by outside pressure coercion will ultimately lead to the reign of international anarchy. With international anarchy rampant, civil wars, regional wars and ultimately a world war will result. The League of Nations came into being so as to restrain such development. The League of Nations is a positive result gained from the lessons of a world war. Today's United Nations Organization is in essence a continuation of the League of Nations. Hence the greatest duty of the United Nations is to combat international anarchy and promote international relations tampered [as published] by justice, promote international friendship and also enable nations to retain sovereign integrity; and in addition to enable individual nations to administer their own affairs freely and independently.

If those nations which are militarily and economically more powerful begin attempting to utilize all kinds of methods to interfere in the affairs of other nations with equal rights and full sovereign authority, developments would inevitably lead to a system of international dictatorship.

If nations no longer possess the rights of independence and are subject to coercion and control of others the citizens of the nations too would be deprived of the mosy basic right of self-determination and the rights of social well-being. Hence by preventing such occurences, the United Nations would be helping to preserve the social rights and welfare of the world humanity and at the same time would prevent the outbreak of world war. On the part of individual nations themselves, they would, by collectively opposing outside interterences in the internal affairs, help to bring about international relationships imbued with justice while it would also help to maintain regional peace and tranquillity. This is a tale of two neighbouring countries from which would become obvious the needs for all the nations of the world to collectively oppose the exertion of pressure and coercion and interference in the internal affairs of other nations as well as to oppose aid and encouragement for such interferences and to also work together for the maintenance of international relationships imbued with justice.

'Unpeaceful Activities' Viewed

BK1003040493 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 23 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Maha Thamun: "For Peace or for Terrorism?"]

[Text] I regularly take a walk every morning. I also pray regularly. For this reason I have not had time to listen to that foreign radio which had to be tuned in at 6.30 in the morning. Previously, even if I don't switch on the radio, there were other homes which used to switch on to that particular foreign station very loudly so that even those who don't want to listen can't help hearing. But nowadays, people have got used to it and they don't switch it on any more. Perhaps they have become fed up with having lo listen to all the meaningless rubbish and instead of listening, they have got better things to do. Whatever may be the case, the fact remains that it has been quite a long time that I haven't heard their voices on the radio.

While speaking at the No 1 State High School of South Okkalapa on 20 February, State Law and Order Restoration Council Secretary- 1 Maj-Gen [Major-General] Khin Nyunt drew attention to an interesting item of news. This was a report about how a group of people said to be Nobel prize winners had gone to meet destructive terrorist insurgents via the neighbouring country [Thailand]. I read in the newspaper of 21 February that Maj-Gen Khin Nyunt described their activities as being totally unprincipled.

It was only then that I listened to the long-turned-off foreign radio again curious as to what kind of new plots they have been hatching. I also asked those who are known to be regular listeners. I also sought out some foreign newspapers and read them.

Its like this...among the seven so-called Nobel prize recipients preparing to carry out agitational activities in the neighbouring country regarding the internal affairs of our country is Bishop Desmond Tu Tu of South Africa and he is known to have arrived at the capital of the neighbouring country on 14 February. It is said that the rest of them arrived on 16 and 17 February.

It is seen that the Government of the neighbouring country seems to have treated their arrival with considerable caution. Some of those of the neighbouring country are known to have commented that these Nobel prize recipients ought to make up their own minds as to whether it would be right and proper for them to cast aspersions upon the Myanmar [Burma] Government while they were on the soil of the neighbouring country. A responsible official, a Lieutenant General is known to have even warned those who oppose the Myanmar Government against making capital of the itinerary of the Nobel prize recipients. He is known to have said that all those who attempt to stage demonstrations in front of the Myanmar Embassy would be arrested. As the Dalai Lama is also included in the group, there seems to be considerable anxiety that criticism of China would also be voiced. The military leadership of the neighbouring country has also been critical of the itinerary. There have been anxiety that relations with Myanmar Naing Ngan and with China would be affected.

The Government of the neighbouring country has clarified that this itinerary was a private one arranged by an organization supposedly dedicated to human rights and propagation of democracy headquartered in Montreal, Canada. They have also said that the Nobel prize recipients are not being recognized or accepted as political leaders of any kind.

I wonder what kind of unpeaceful activities these great big Nobel peace prize recipients have been up to. Some countries have in fact been known to have refused to grant them visas!

What this of course means is that these great big Nobel prize recipients cannot be said to enjoy the full support or confidence of the international community. It is of course natural that they may show mutual support amongst themselves. For instance, it is said that Mikhail Gorbachev supports them.

Actually, what this great big Nobel peace prize recipient Mikhail Gorbachev should he doing is to try and create peace in his old 'Soviet Union' which has disintegrated and is beset with wars!

These great big Nobel prize recipients who were the butt of jibes and titters from the time they arrived, before long, proceeded to interfere in the internal affairs of the Myanmar Naing Ngan. They soon began to scream frantically thay the Myanmar Naing Ngan should release 'political prisoners' and that arms should not be sold to Myanmar Naing Ngan. This is nothing less than interference in our domestic affairs which concern ourselves only. Why are they saying such things aimed at weakening the defence capability of the Myanmar Naing Ngan instead of blaming the biggest arms-trading nation in the entire world?

Who is making them say such things?

Actually, it is obvious that these great big Nobel prize recipients have never been to the Myanmar Naing Ngan. Indeed, do they know anything at all about the Myanmar Naing Ngan?

It is said that these great big Nobel prize recipients visited a 'refugee camp' in the neighbouring country. And it is further said that the South African Bishop Desmond Tu Tu even led the chanting of slogans for KNU [Karen National Union] independence!

What this of course means is that a greal big Nobel peace prize recipient is giving encouragement and support for a matter which would lead to the disintegration of the Union of Myanmar and to the outbreak of internecine armed conflict in which blood would flow like rivers. They are even boasting that the visit of the Nobel prize recipients to the border constitutes part of an unprecedented agitational offensive. It is surprising indeed that such so-called men of peace should engage in offensives of this kind!

And who are these so-called refugees which the great big Nobel prize recipients have gone to meet? They are nothing more than terrorist insurgents who go under the name of KNU and their equally terroristic underlings the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front].....all of them who have absconded from this country.

And who are the KNU? They are essentially terrorists who began their activities way back in 1948 with narrow racist concepts and in obedience to the incitement and encouragement of their colonial masters. Their callous and bloodthirsty activities are well-known in Myanmar Naing Ngan. The Phyu massacre is a case in point where hundreds of innocent and harmless people were murdered. The number of times in which the KNU have mined railway trains is beyond count and innumerable have been the innocent civilians killed and maimed in the process. And who do you think were those who kidnapped young university girls so that they could be exchanged for arms and ammunition from the 'white chinese' Kuomintang...they were no other than the KNU. There will be no end if we are to narrate all the evil things they have done to deserve the crown of cruelty!

Unable to withstand the vengeance of the people and the onslaught of the Tatmadaw combined they fled to the border; they engaged in questionable commercial enterprises and assumed the name of refugees so as to gain greater ease of movement. The KNU have never exercised the slightest iota of human rights or democracy in their entire existence. And it is amazing indeed that such disciples of Satan and advocates of evil should get together with so-called men of peace.

I, Maha Thamun can only see this development as a new and vicious step calculated with wanton wickedness to try and bring about the disintegration of our Union, disruption of national solidarity and compromise our sovereign integrity.

BBC 'Unprincipled', 'Dishonest'

BK1003060293 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 23 Feb 93 p 3

[From the "If I Speak Out, It May Amount To Aung Min's Taking Too Much For Granted" column by Aung Min: ""Hands Off! Hands Off!""]

[Excerpts] As a true citizen of Myanmar [Burma], I, Aung Min, have been pondering deeply how natural and full of impact are our Myanmar proverbs. [passage omitted]

At one time in the past, I, Aung Min as one who was born during the period of servitude when the Myanmar Naing-Ngan was a slavedom under the British, I used to have a high opinion of everything the British or the European did, said or wrote. And when it comes to the radio, the choice was BBC. And of course I also used to have a high opinion of the Nobel prize recipients.

But now, I, Aung Min have become wiser. I had to struggle to free myself out of the slough of the British slave education system. And as for the BBC, I have come to know beyond all doubt that it is the most unprincipled and dishonest broadcasting station which will stoop to the lowest levels to achieve its ends.

Among the Nobel prize recipients there are some who do not possess sufficient self-respect or sense of honour enough, and such as they are callously engaging in activities which amount to interference in the internal affairs of another country. Without even an iota of self-respect they have a high opinion of the cruellest of murderous groups which have so far existed; and they have gone to visit such criminals, murderers, bandits and rapists at the camps in the jungles. And what is more, they have been taken in by the hypocritical cries of "Stop thief " being shouted by the gangs of thieves. This was the scenario in which some Nobel prize recipients were hoodwinked as I have heard a few days ago. Pitiable creatures!

It is indeed beyond belief that these Nobel prize recipients supposedly dedicated to democracy and human rights have visited the terrorist insurgent camp on the border and that they even had discussions with them.

Let me give you an analogy. It would be like electing "pimps" to office in measures being taken to eliminate prostitution; what else would be the results but an increase in prostitution under such circumstances?

Since there are people who would understand only frank and candid talk, I'll have to say that KNU [Karen National Union] Nga Mya and his cohorts have never had democracy or human rights in their mind and they will never, ever have been. [sentence as published] This is because KNU are creatures whose activities of murder, robbery and rapine are diametrically opposed to the values enshrined in democracy and human rights.

If all the victims who had suffered at the hands of KNU Nga Mya and his cohorts are to open criminal cases practically all the Sections in the Penal Code dealing with the cruellest and most atrocious offences will have to be used.

The notorious Phyu massacre: the indiscriminate machine-gunning of the passengers after the Dagon Lwin train was mined (this kind of thing happened repeatedly); the death of a large number of people when a hand grenade was thrown at the Shwesaryan Pagoda festival; the killing of people in the machine-gunning and rocketing of the Shwegun passenger ferry etc, etc, etc,.... All such atrocities criminally carried out through many' years of vicious actions by the KNU. And the fact that the Nobel prize recipients have gone out of their way to meet such disciples of Satan and advocates of viciousness speaks much about the truth of the Myanmar saying that one mis-step may be more than enough to spoil a journey. Isn't it true?

The fact is today there is a need for a new constitution for the emergence of a genuine democratic State in the Myanmar Naing-Ngan; in other words, if I am to express it in the language of the man in the street, to make it possible for the systematic emergence of a civilian government and to make it possible for it to administer the country. Once such a constitution emerges, we need no longer be anxious that the nation may disintegrate; we won't have to worry that the democratic system may be opposed, and what is more, we will have all guarantees for the propagation of the worldly values of justice, liberty and equality. Only such guarantees are in existence would the Tatmadaw [Defense Services] which has risked and sacrificed much in their defence respectfully hand over power with full peace of mind.

Now efforts are in full swing in preparations for the emergence of such a Constitution. This is the essence of the National Convention being held. It is at this National Convention that the fundamental principles will be discussed comprehensively at length. Once that is done, the Constitution will be framed; it will be approved in a national referendum and the State Law and Order Restoration Council will have peace of mind, and having made it possible for the emergence of a civilian government it will hand over power with great joy and pageantry.

And all these are endeavours being made by the State Law and Order Restoration Council for the firm establishment of a new state and for the welfare of the entire nation with genuine goodwill and respect towards the nation and the people. To put it shortly, the State Law and Order Restoration Council is striving in a practical way with straightforward honesty to bring about an authentic multi-party democracy system in the country.

At such an important time of this when the National Convention is being held these Nobel prize recipients have been behaving as in the saying that Mara attempts to deter the enlightenment of Buddha. These Nobel prize recipients have not shown the least respect for the honour which has been bestowed upon them. Indeed, they have misused the honour. By acting as advocates gratis for KNU Nga Mya. (Gratis? Whether or not these Nobel prize recipients have been doing all this for free or not, Aung Min has no means of knowing. God, perhaps, may know about this affair.) Well, they arrived at the neighbouring country. Both countries profess Theravada Buddhism. But the neighbouring country which we believe would uninterruptedly exercise mutual metta, karuna, mudita and upekkha [universal love, compassion, sympathetic joy, equanimity] as embodied in the brahmavihara [supreme dwelling] accepted the Nobel prize recipients without consideration whether it was appropriate or proper.

It is said that after this they will try to bring pressure upon the Myanmar Government by widely disseminating false allegations as created by the leader of the murderers, bandits and terrorists among the international community and at the United Nations.

Well, if I speak out, it may amount to Aung Min's taking too much for granted. However, since there are people who will know only when they are told, Aung Min will speak out; I say, "These Nobel prize recipients as well as neighbours far and near are warned to keep their hands off the internal affairs of the Myanmar Naing-Ngan at this time when a high momentum has been gained in the serious and continuing discussions and coordination being carried out by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, all the political parties, the workers, the peasants, the intelligentsia and technocrats and the nationalities delegates in the on-going endeavours for the emergence of a multiparty democracy system in the Myanmar Naing-Ngan; but if, on the other hand, interference and disruption continue only you and no one else will be held responsible for the failure of democracy in Myanmar Naing-Ngan. This you must keep in mind."

Khin Nyunt Criticizes Nobel Laureates

BK1003041593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The opening ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No. 5 for doctors was held at 0900 yesterday at the Ohndaw Hall, the Central Institute of Public Service, Hlegu. Major General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the National Health Commission and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] addressed the opening ceremony. [passage omitted]

Speaking, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said this is the fifth refresher course held for doctors with the lofty objective of promoting nationalism, the three cardinal causes [nondisintegration of the union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of national sovereignty], and management and discipline in public health. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the SLORC is striving to instill and revive the spirit of national unity and patriotism in the minds of the people. However, just as it is doing this, some neocolonialist countries and organizations under their patronage, and news media under their influence, are employing various means in a synchronized manner to spread rumors, groundless allegations, and subversive and divisive influences to carry out subversive activities internally and externally to destroy national unity and undermine inherent patriotism. [passage omitted]

Continuing, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the National Convention is being held with the objective of drawing up a lasting state constitution, which is a national objective. Reports containing suggestions from various groups of delegates have been submitted to the National Convention plenary session after the panel discussions. After the chapter headings are obtained, the discussions will continue in order to get basic principles for each chapter heading.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said before and during the National Convention, armed terrorist insurgents, exiles, and some foreign broadcasting stations colluded and synchronized their activities to undermine and denigrate the National Convention. Despite the obstruction of these malicious elements, the National Convention is being held systematically and it is interest of reestablishing national solidarity, it has also invited them to participate in the national undertaking to draft the state constitution after they give up their armed struggle. The SLORC is carrying out its tasks for economic and social development as a national duty. [passage omitted]

Convention Delegates Continue Panel Discussions

BK1003042993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The panel discussions by two groups of National Convention delegates continued today in their respective meetings rooms in the Kyaikkasand Grounds. The deliberations were on names and the arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the presiding chairman at the plenary session on 3 March in the Central Conference Hall in the President's House compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon].

A meeting of the Panel of Chairmen members from the group representing elected representatives and the group in charge of writing the report was held in Room No. 4 this morning and afternoon. They discussed suggested names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the presiding chairman's speech at the plenary session of 3 March.

Members of the Panel of Chairmen—U Maung Gyi, U James Bond, U Mahn Tin Aung Than, U San Tha Aung, and U Daniel Aung chaired the meeting and the following elected representatives of the group in charge of writing the report discussed the presiding chairman's speech at the plenary session on 3 March: They are U Tun Yi, Sandoway constituency, Rakhine State; U Sai Tin Aye, Namsang constituency, Shan State; U Thein Tun, Ingapu constituency, Irrawaddy Division; U Yankin Maw, Kunlong constituency, Shan State; U San Tha Aung, Kyauktaw constituency, Rakhine State; Dr. Hmu Tang, independent from Thangtlang constituency, Chin State; U Khin Maung Cho, Dimawhso constituency, Kayah State; U Htaung Kho Htan, Tamu constituency, Sagaing constituency; U Tun Kyaw, Namhsan constituency, Shan State; U Tun Hlaing, Bahan constituency, Yangon Division; U Hla Maung, Kya-in-Seikkyi constituency, Karen State; and U Aung Thein, Ywangan cosntituency, Shan State. The meeting adjourned at 1610 after delegates agreed it was to resume on 10 March.

The panel discussion of specially invited delegates was held at 1000 today at Meeting Room No. 1. Retired Commissioner U Wan Tin chaired the meeting and U Tun Lwin acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Pe Khin, retired ambassador; U Saw Tun Sein, War Veterans Organization member; U Chan Lan of Kachin State Special Region No. 1; U Ko, retired ambassador; U Kyaw Myint alias U Win Maung of Namhkam, Northern Shan State; Dr. Tin Tin Hmun, chairman of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association; U Myint Lwin alias U Wun Kweta, Kutkai, Shan State; U Mahtu Naw, Northern Shan State Special Region No. 5; U Leitu Lek alias U Aung Myint, Northern Shan State Special Region No. 2; Daw Myint Than, member of the

Myanmar Language Commission; and U Lwe Sai, Northern Shan State Special Region No. 7. The meeting ended at 1500 after the group agreed to endorse the suggested names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the presiding chairman's speech.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

House Approves Constitutional Amendment Bill

BK0903134393 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] has approved the constitutional amendment bill 1993 with a two-third majority after a two-day debate. A total of 167 MPs [members of parliament] voted for the bill, six abstained, and there was no dissenting vote when the division was called at 6:12 p.m.

Members of parliament who voted for the bill comprised 129 from the Barisan Nasional [National Front], 20 from the DAP [Democratic Action Party], 14 from the PBS [Sabah United Party] and four independents, while six members from PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] abstained. All six members of the Parti Semangat 46 [Spirit of 1946] are not attending the special two-day sessions of the Dewan Rakyat.

The bill aimed at, among other things, to limit the legal immunity of the rulers which returned to the house after some modifications by the Conference of Rulers. The Conference of Rulers gave its consent to the bill on the 11th of last month.

Senate Passes Constitutional Amendment Bill

BK1003135393 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Deman Negara [Senate] passed the federal contitutional amendments bill (1993) at a special sitting today. The amendment bill, among other things, allows the setting up of a special court to try errant Malay rulers. All the 54 senators who were presnt during the reading unanimously supported the bill.

The Senate President, Datuk C. Vadivelu, announced the outcome of voting at 6.25 PM. The bill was passed by the lower house yesterday. It will be presented to the Yang Dipertuan Agong [King] Sultan Azlan Shah for consent and the bill will become law after 30 days even without his consent.

Winding up the debate in the Dewan Negara, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ghafar Baba said any weaknesses in the bill will be rectified later. He said the government was of the opinion that it would be better for the amendment bill to be enforced first.

Commenting on certain suggestions made by several senators concerning the government's willingness to establish a special court to try errant Malay rulers, when both rulers and the people are equal before the law, Mr. Ghafar said the government feels that there should be some difference between the rulers and the people. He said if there is no difference, the government fears that all people can claim to be rulers.

Government 'Satisfied' With Amendments Approval

BK1003092093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the government's effort in bringing about the amendments to the Constitution is most practical and it has effectively removed the culture of fear among the people toward the royalties. [passage omitted]. In his winding up of the debate on the Constitutional Amendment Bill 1993 in the Lower House of Parliament, the prime minister said the people now do not have to fear the rulers and the police need not be afraid anymore when carrying out their duties in matters involving the royalties.

On the special courts provided in the modified amendments, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the government agreed to the position because it wants to reduce the fear of the rulers and does not want the rulers to feel harrassed. He clarified that the court will still function as usual with the same sets of law for all. He said there is no need to delve [as heard] the commitment of the government in upholding justice and enforcement of the laws.

The house later approved the bill with a two-thirds majority after a three-day debate. A total of 167 MPs [members of parliament] voted for the bill, six abstained, and there was no dissenting vote when the decision was called.

The bill, aimed at, among other things, to limit the legal immunity of the rulers, was returned to the House after some modifications by the conference of rulers. The Senate fixed today to debate the bill.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, speaking to reporters later, said the government was satisfied with the support given by members of parliament at the special sitting in parliament. The voting showed the bill had the overwhelming support, including from the opposition, except for PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] and Parti Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party]. He said that the huge support for the bill reflected the people's aspirations on the issue.

Government To Fight Against 'Eco-Labelling'

BK1003072893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0330 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Major tropical timber exporters, Malaysia and Indonesia, will fight back against any attempt to discriminate tropical timber products by any countries. Both countries have retaliated against the passing of the eco-labelling law on tropical timber products by the Austrian Government last June, Primary Industries Minister Dr. Lim Keng Yaik said Tuesday.

"Malaysia and Indonesia have retaliated following the passing of the eco-labelling law and some Austrian companies who have been doing trade with Malaysia felt the pinch", Dr. Lim told reporters today after receiving a call by a Uzbekistan delegation to his office.

Describing the eco-labelling law as purely political, Dr. Lim said Austria in its attempt to please the green parties had sacrificed multi-lateral trades. "The same applies to Switzerland which is being pressured by Bruno Manser and some green parties to pass its eco-labelling law", he added.

Swiss rainforest activist Manser was reported recently to be pressuring the Swiss authority to issue a moratorium on imports of tropical wood from the East Malaysian state of Sarawak and to pass a pending bill on the declaration of wood imports during its current session of parliament.

Meanwhile, it was reported earlier that Austria might revoke the eco-labelling law pending the Austrian Government's decision on March 15.

Commentary Welcomes 'Timely' Antidumping Law

BK1003110893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia's move to have an antidumping law is both timely and a sign of the country's economic maturity. The law will go a long way in protecting local industries compete on an equal footing in the international market [sentence as heard]. It cannot be denied that just about every important country encountered dumping by foreign countries. It is an unfair trading practise as exports are sold in a country below their market value and cost price. As such, products of the host country suffer a drop in sales.

Dumping of quality products below the market price is a short-term process used to capture the consumers' interest and jeopardize local industries. Malaysia needs this law as its economic development, though impressive, has yet to match those of industrialized countries. However, it would not be used as a weapon against competitive foreign products. Having a closed market is not what Malaysia is out to do. Instead, Malaysia has already started measures to further liberalize its market by abolishing or reducing tariffs for numerous imports. The move is in line with ASEAN's aim to forge a single market. With intense competition, some companies will do just about everything to get a foothold in anybody's market. Therefore, the law would preempt this from happening. Other exporting countries should not see this law as step toward protectionism by Malaysia. After all, the most developed countries have this law to protect their industries. It is about time Malaysia had such a law for its own protection. It is not a retaliatory measure but rather a fair trading practice. At the same time, the law would be effective in curbing the import of substandard goods. Moreover, Malaysia is already committed to reducing tariffs as part of its offer under the Generalized System of Tariffs and Trade, GATT, global trade talks. It cannot just impose tariffs. An antidumping law would then suffice to stop inferior goods. It must also be realized that Malaysia has been ranked as the 24th largest importer, according to the world competitive (?press) report. Therefore, its market is largely open to foreign competition.

Malaysia welcomes competition between its enterpreneurs and foreign exporters, but this should be on a level playing ground. Local manufacturers would be at a disadvantage if dumping was not stopped. With more than 75 percent of its industries being small and medium-scale enterprises, the country definitely needs such a law. It would give the industries time to grow without having to put up with unfair trading practices. The antidumping law is internationally recognized and accepted. However, Malaysia will not use the law unless there is strong evidence that dumping has taken place.

Industrial countries have nothing to fear. Malaysia has always exhorted free and fair global trade and there is no reason for it to do otherwise.

SRV Seeks Expertise To Help Rebuild Country

BK1003050293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 10 Mar GMT 0327 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Vietnam hopes to acquire expertise in science and technology from Malaysia for its post-war reconstruction, its visiting Science, Technology and Environment Minister Professor Dung Huu said Tuesday.

Describing Malaysia as a much developed country, he said areas in which Malaysia could help were in agriculture, bio-technology, microelectronics, technology management, information and environment. These are our priorities in which we hope to acquire help from Malaysia under the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be signed between both countries, he told reporters after a two-hour visit to the Department of Environment (DOE) here.

Earlier, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi would be signing an MOU on scientific, technological and environmental cooperation.

Professor Huu said the MOU was expected to be signed within a month. The MOU would provide for the exchange of experts and technology between the two countries, joint programmes in research and projects and setting up of a joint institution for research and development in both countries.

Prof Huu, who is here on a week-long visit, arrived Monday with a five-member delegation.

Minister Views Bosnia, Thais' Border Incursion

BK0903153993 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Malaysia has called on the UN Security Council to consider military action against the Serbian Army in Bosnia when the world body meets this month to review its role in the former Yugoslavian state. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that Malaysia supported UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali's proposal that military action be taken against the Serbs if they disagreed with the peace plan in Bosnia. He said Malaysia appealed to the UN secretary general to formally bring its proposal to the Security Council when the UN meets to discuss its role in Bosnia before the tenure of the UN protection forces ends this month. Datuk Abdullah said atrocities committed by the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina cannot be allowed to prolong.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting a Bosnian business delegation at Wisma Putera [Foreign Ministry]. He added that the Serb Army's action preventing the UN from sending food and medical supplies to war victims in Bosnia was inhuman.

Referring to the border agreement with Thailand, Datuk Abdullah said Malaysia always abided by its agreements with other countries even if there has been a change in government in those countries. He said what surprises Malaysia is that why a border agreement made with Thailand in 1983 has not been recognized by that country. He was commenting on the recent border incursion at Padang Besar, Perlis. He said the problem should be amicably settled with the Thais and they should respect the border agreement signed with them. He said he had been told that the area where six Thai customs officers encroached into is Malaysian territory and the Thais recognized that, but now they are saying it's theirs. He was confident that the issue could be resolved under the auspices of the joint commission which will meet in Thailand later this year.

Russia Considers Million-Tonne Palm Oil Purchase

BK0903141493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 9 (AFP)—Russia has indicated it could buy up to one million tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia if it secures the deal to sell Kuala Lumpur its MiG-29 fighter jets, Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik said Tuesday.

Lim told reporters that Russian Vice President Aleksander Rutskoy had last week indicated that Moscow could buy the oil for its own consumption and for distribution to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Rutskoy, who was here on a three-day visit from March 1, made the offer when he upgraded Russia's MiG-29 sale package by also proposing to house a palm oil refinery in Moscow to serve the CIS countries.

A Malaysian defence official said the cabinet was to study the "sweeteener."

Malaysia, being the world's largest palm oil producer, is stepping up an aggressive marketing strategy to maintain its traditional markets and woo new ones.

Russia had reportedly offered Malaysia a package worth two billion Malaysian dollars (800 million U.S.) for 18 MiG-29s and six Mi35 helicopters to replace Kuala Lumpur's aging fighter aircraft fleet.

Lim had earlier Tuesday held talks with visiting Uzbekistan minister of food, Nematulla Khamidov, who is leading a four-member delegation on a five-day visit. Khamidov is scheduled to leave on Wednesday.

Khamidov had also indicated Uzbekistan's interest in buying an unspecified volume of Malaysian palm oil for blending with cotton seed oil for foodstuffs.

Palm oil traders, while skeptical about Russia's ability to finance the purchase, said it would be one of the largest single buyers of Malaysia's palm oil if the deal went through.

Singapore

Seoul TV Interviews Premier Goh in Singapore

SK0403140293 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1240 GMT 27 Feb 93

['Exclusive' interview with Goh Chok Tong by Pak Song-pom, director of the Korean Broadcasting System [KBS] Radio and Television Network Broadcast Division, at an official residence of the Singaporean prime minister in Singapore, date not given—recorded; Goh speaks in English with superimposed Korean translation and Pak speaks in English with Korean subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pak] What are your expectations of new Korean President Kim Yong-sam who has a very strong intention to clean up corruption and social disorder?

[Goh] I have not had the benefit of meeting President Kim Yong-sam. But I hear through the press that he is a very experienced statesman and that he wishes to clean up corruption in Korean society. This is what the new president ought to do, and I believe that this will help lead Korea forward.

[Pak] How do you characterize relations between Singapore and Korea?

[Goh] The two countries are maintaining trade of goodwill and political relations. At present there are no problems that can hurt the relations between the two countries. I believe the friendly relations between the two countries will continue in the future as well.

[Pak] Singapore has diplomatic relations with both South and North Korea. What is your opinion of Korean reunification?

[Goh] It is a matter to be settled by the Korean people. If North and South Korea are reunified, it will be the realization of what has been longed for by the Korean nation. We want peace on the Korean peninsula, and I think that reunification should be realized peacefully.

[Pak] China is growing strong economically, and Japan is expanding militarily in the region. How would these changes in Japan and China affect Korea and Singapore?

[Goh] This will be a long-term issue. I do not foresee any particular problem for the coming decade, because the United States is still stationing its troops in this region and the United States wants to remain a leading force in this region. We also support this. This helps maintain a power balance among the Asian countries, and it is beneficial to Korea and Singapore as well.

China is attaining continuous economic growth. If the Chinese economy organically integrates in the Asian region, China will become a colossal economic force. But I do not think China will pose a threat. If it does, China itself will suffer a damage to its economic growth.

The same is applicable to Japan. Japan may worry that the United States might withdraw from the Asian region, but I think the U.S. troops will continue to stay in this region for the coming decade. I do not think Japan will rearm itself to the extent of posing danger.

[Pak] Most Asian countries recognize the importance of the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the United States is scaling down its military expenditure worldwide due to economic realities. What are your views on how the United States can remain meaningfully engaged in the region?

[Goh] We should help the United States carry on its role in the Asia-Pacific region. We should increase imports from the United States. If we increase buying from the United States and provide it with reasons warranting investment, the United States will take interest in protecting its market in this region. The United States has invested much in such countries as Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand. The United States is interested in protecting its investment. Therefore, we ought to provide the United States with a reason for it to maintain its troops here.

[Pak] What do you think of the global trend of forming regional economic blocs, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the single European Community?

[Goh] It is inevitable because the countries sharing common borders want their economic border to expand because this increases the opportunity for investment and trade. I hope, however, that this trend will not turn into a protectionist tendency. The formation of regional economic blocs should not lead to protectionism. They should not levy unfair allocation of quotas and customs duties. This will largely depend on the smooth fruition of the GATT negotiations.

[Pak] What is your assessment of the likely outcome of the GATT negotiations, and what are the consequences for countries like Singapore and Korea if the GATT talks fail?

[Goh] We are in the final stage of negotiations. And it is the most difficult matter to reach agreement on the farm subsidy issue. I think the new U.S. President will formulate his position as to the GATT talks. He will probably try to reach agreement by the end of this year. If the GATT talks fail, it will bring a negative impact on Singapore and Korea. Korea and Singapore are exporting much to other countries, including the United States and Europe. If doors are closed to these markets, our living standard will suffer a setback.

[Pak] Do you have any words you would like to say to the people of Korea?

[Goh] Korea and Singapore are in friendly relations. But we can become even closer. The two countries are engaged in active trade with each other and can increase investment. Along with the exchange visits of the ministers of the two countries, the exchange between the people of the two countries should come about. I look forward to a bright future for the Korean people.

[Pak] Thank you very much, Prime Minister, for giving us your time.

[Goh] Thank you.

Minister Says Tax Cut To Attract Quality Investors

BK0503041493 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 40

[Text] Reducing the corporate income tax rate from 30 to 27 percent would be "more than adequate to attract the flow of high-quality investments to Singapore," said Finance Minister Dr. Richard Hu yesterday.

Speaking at a press briefing on his budget statement announced last Friday, Dr. Hu said the 3 percentage point cut from the Year of Assessment 1994 is meant as an "insurance" to keep Singapore competitive.

So, "why give away more than is necessary?" he asked aloud, pointing to the fact Singapore attracted record investment commitments last year even at the current tax rate of 30 percent.

Dr. Hu's comments were in reply to a question on why the government decided not to cut the corporate tax rate straight away by five points to the long term target of 25 percent.

Trade and Industry Minister S. Dhanabalan, who was also at the press briefing at Treasury Building, said the finance minister must be "prudent" in his approach.

Otherwise, this could mean a higher rate for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to be introduced next April or a further cut in government expenditure since corporate tax revenue would be lower.

On why the government decided on that long term rate of 25 percent, Dr. Hu said no country "can afford to go below that"—apart from Hong Kong and tax haven countries.

But if countries start cutting their rates to match or better Singapore's, then the republic may be forced to lower its level to below 25 percent.

Dr. Hu also reiterated the government's concern with the need to control public spending.

"So long as the public supports government expenditure programmes" and does not make "unreasonable" demands for subsidies, there is no reason to increase the GST rate or not to cut the corporate tax rate further.

The minister declined comment on when the targeted 25 percent rate is to be reached, except to say that the personal tax rate will be cut correspondingly if the corporate rate is changed.

Dr. Hu also addressed the following tax-related issues:

The tax incentives to encourage local companies to venture abroad are "sufficient at this point in time." But if businessmen feel that they are not enough, they should make concrete suggestions to the Finance Ministry.

Addressing concerns that some tax incentives are vague as they are handled on a case-by-case basis, the government would spell out in due course the basic criteria used to tax-exempt income repatriated from abroad.

Property tax rebates are aimed at helping to reduce business costs and landlords have been urged to pass the savings to their tenants. If they do not, "it's for tenants to kick up a row."

Capping tax deductions for medical expenses at 2 percent of employees' pay is very generous as according to a survey, only about 15 percent of companies would be affected by this ruling.

When in a recession, the approach should be to cut taxes to stimulate the economy rather than raise them. Dr. Hu said this in response to a question on whether the government would change the GST rate when the economy hits a rough patch.

"We did this in the 1985 recession. We did not increase taxes, we cut them and increased spending. That was why we could get out of the recession quickly."

Government Opens Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City

BK0803123293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Summary from poor reception] The government has set up a consulate in Ho Chi Minh City and appointed Mr. Goh Seow Kwang as the consul. The consulate in Ho Chi Minh City is Singapore's second diplomatic mission in Vietnam. The government opened an embassy in Hanoi last September. Singapore has been Vietnam's biggest trading partner in the last few years. Two-way trade totalled 1.7 billion Singapore dollars last year.

Cambodia

Akashi: 'Possibility' Elections May Be Cancelled

BK1003055493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 10 Mar 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 10 (AFP)—With less than three months to go before the United Nations holds an election to establish a new government in Cambodia, even the head of the U.N. operation concedes there is a possibility the elections will have to be cancelled. "The basic minimum conditions (for the election) are not yet in place in Cambodia," said U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) head Yasushi Akashi. "The situation is still not satisfactory in my view," he said Tuesday in an address to Cambodian faction leaders.

Indeed, despite the two billion dollar UNTAC budget and the presence of 20,000 peacekeepers, conditions are nowhere near ripe for a free and fair election scheduled for May 23-27. Free political expression is stifled by the Phnom Penh government and its officials have been implicated in acts of violence and intimidation against opponents, according to UNTAC.

While politically motivated violence dropped from 65 incidents in October to 32 in February, it is clear that unless UNTAC can rein in the culprits, the election campaign beginning April 7 will be anything but peaceful. Campaigning can take place only in 80 percent of the country anyway. The Khmer Rouge control the remainder and are refusing to take part in the elections or allow any civilians in their zones to participate either.

The Khmer Rouge, pointing to the unmitigated violence, maintain that UNTAC has not provided sufficient control over the Phnom Penh government. They also say thousands of Vietnamese troops are left over from the period of occupation between 1978 and 1989, when Hanoi invaded to oust the Khmer Rouge and install the Phnom Penh regime. These troops, numbering some

40,000 according to the faction spokesman, constitute a continued and U.N.-sanctioned Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge say. They blame UNTAC for siding with the "Vietnamese aggressors" against them and regularly take captive U.N. personnel who enter their zones, freeing them only in exchange for their vehicles and personal effects.

UNTAC, for its part, says it has found eight such Vietnamese foreign forces who should be deported. But the Phnom Penh government is refusing to deport some of them, disputing their birthplaces and calling them Cambodians. And Hanoi is refusing to take them on the grounds that the men have become Cambodian citizens. As a result the men, who have married Cambodian women and are leading normal lives, are in a legal limbo as the powers that be debate their future. Also in legal limbo are two Cambodians whom UNTAC wants to charge with murder, but cannot because the government will not allow its judges to hear the cases.

One is a government policeman accused of killing a member of the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party. The other is a Khmer Rouge deserter who confessed to massacring more than a dozen ethnic Vietnamese people in central Cambodia. The men remain in UNTAC custody in violation of their right to appear before a judge on charges, while UNTAC and Phnom Penh authorities debate the resolution.

The U.N. Security Council is adamant that its two billion dollar investment in peace in Cambodia does not go to waste. It voted unanimously Monday to endorse the outcome of the elections, leaving the Khmer Rouge as an insurgency force to be dealt with militarily by the new government. There are signs already that Cambodia is gearing up for renewed civil war, with the Phnom Penh government moving new weaponry into the countryside and distributing firearms. Reports from the Khmer Rouge zones say the faction is also preparing for renewed fighting.

Phnom Penh 9 Mar SNC Session Detailed

BK1003064693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] A meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], at 0930 on 9 March. Attending the session were H.E. General Tie Banh, H.E. Hor Namhong, and H.E. Gen. Sin Sen for the State of Cambodia [SOC] side, and SNC members from the other Cambodian sides. Also present were ambassadors and representatives from various embassies in Cambodia and national and international reporters. The implementation of the Paris peace accord by all the Cambodian signatories, the outcome of UNTAC's mission since the last SNC session, and the result of the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from various camps in Thailand were examined at the meeting.

On that occasion, H.E. Tie Banh told H.E. Akashi and the audience about the SOC side and the Cambodian People's Armed Forces' stance on the accusation about the presence of foreign forces in Cambodia. He said in any case, the SOC side has the goodwill to closely cooperate with UNTAC in the search for peace and national reunification for the motherland. He also pointed out the complicity of the immigrant and racial issues, which are not only faced by Cambodia alone, but also by other countries in the rest of the world. He indicated that these issues, which are being used by the other Cambodian side as the only pretext for putting the blame on the SOC side, cannot—as H.E. Akashi used to say—be solved during the transitional period. Anyway, a future Cambodian government should get involved to solve the issue.

Khieu Samphan Blames UNTAC for Problems

BK1003072993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] On 9 March 1993, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of Supreme National Council [SNC], issued a statement concerning the issue of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] leaders violating and destroying the Paris agreement and colluding with the Vietnamese aggressors to destroy Cambodia's peace, independence, and sovereignty. Here is the text of the statement:

I. Concerning the Cambodian problem which results from Vietnam's invasion and occupation in December 1978:

Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia has gone on for over 13 years. During this period, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have sowed all kinds of destruction on the Cambodian nation and people, who have faced unending hardship and suffering. This is unprecedented in Cambodian history; it is also very rare in world history. However, the Cambodian nation and people struggled against the Vietnamese aggressors. With the assistance and support of all peace-loving countries the world over, we defeated the Vietnamese aggressors, one strategy after another and one stage after another, until they were forced to sign the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991.

II. The Paris agreement's aim is to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia so that Cambodia will regain its peace, independence, and sovereignty with territorial integrity. Therefore, along with the rest of the world, the Cambodian nation and people—the victims of Vietnam's act of aggression—have demanded that Vietnam's war of aggression be solved through the comprehensive implementation of the Paris agreement, including the clause on the verification of foreign forces, i.e. all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces, be withdrawn from Cambodia and be prevented from returning.

On this matter, the United Nations and signatories of the Paris agreement have entrusted the task of implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to UNTAC, in close cooperation with the four- party SNC, particularly:

1. To verify that foreign forces—that is, all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces—are withdrawn from Cambodia and be prevented from returning;

2. To give a role to the SNC so that it can carry out its task as the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transition;

3. UNTAC should cooperate with the SNC in controlling five major ministries that have direct influence on elections, namely the Ministries of National Defense, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Information;

4. UNTAC should cooperate with the SNC in controlling the demobilization of 70 percent of all four Cambodian armies in accordance with the agreement.

This is for a neutral political atmosphere, security, and stability throughout Cambodia, necessary factors for the holding of free, democratic, just, and fair elections. This is so that the Cambodian people have the right to decide their own destiny and elect a genuine National Assembly, and through this set up a genuine national government without outside interference.

At the end of 1991, when the Paris agreement entrusted UNTAC with the task of implementing the agreement, the Cambodian nation and people in and outside the country, as well as all peace and justice- loving people the world over and the PDK, were very happy. They had hoped that UNTAC would cooperate with the SNC, which has the task of correctly implementing the Paris agreement, so that Cambodia will regain peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

III. However, 16 months after the Paris agreement (UNTAC's mandate will end in a few months), UNTAC has not only failed to carry out its task, it has also destroyed the agreement. UNTAC has colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, and violated the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly the major, basic, and key clauses, namely:

—UNTAC has not verified the Vietnamese aggressor forces and has not given any role to the SNC;

—UNTAC has colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets in order to smash the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly Democratic Kampuchea, and through this to kill the Cambodian nation, people, and race. Because UNTAC leaders and allies in and outside UNTAC have colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and implemented such a strategy and tactic, UNTAC:

1. Has not verified that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces have been withdrawn from Cambodia but has kept on saying that there are no Vietnamese, there are no Vietnamese;

2. Has adopted laws allowing the Vietnamese aggressors to have the right to vote in Cambodia;

3. Has drafted laws and set up tribunals to try the Cambodian people who oppose the Vietnamese aggressors;

4. Has opposed the SNC having any role in cooperation with UNTAC in checking for Vietnamese aggressor forces; and

5. UNTAC has not cooperated with the SNC to control the five ministries.

This has made the people realize increasingly that UNTAC is shamelessly destroying and grossly violating the agreement, that it is colluding with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets to mantain Vietnam's puppet regime and old Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and that it is also allowing new Vietnamese forces to flow into the country.

Today, the old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia number over 2.4 million, with over 1.4 million holding Cambodian identity cards. They have already been registered for the election by UNTAC. This is why over 16 months after the signing of the Paris agreement Vietnam continues to commit aggression against Cambodia and to occupy it. Vietnam and its puppets are masters of everything in Cambodia. In collusion with their allies in and outside UNTAC, they have been launching offensives against the Cambodian people and Cambodian national resistance forces.

Vietnam and its puppets have been carrying out political terrorist and fascist activities to oppress, intimidate, and murder the Cambodian people and members of various political parties. This is something everyone knows about; it stinks in Cambodia and across the world.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, said in his 13 and 14 December 1992 statements on this matter that the current situation in Cambodia is very bleak. Those responsible for this bleak situation are UNTAC leaders, the Vietnamese aggressors, and Vietnam's puppets. In such a situation, what is the purpose of the allies in and outside UNTAC pushing others to take part in elections?

The Cambodian nation and people realize that holding such an election is tantamount to allowing Cambodia to be annexed legitimately, and to killing the Cambodian nation, people, and race, as the old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces are everywhere in Cambodia. Vietnam and its puppets still dictate everything. What UNTAC leaders and allies in and outside UNTAC are doing is very wrong; it is a very serious mistake. It is against the Paris agreement, the UN Charter, international law, the

Cambodian nation and people, and the history of Cambodia and the world. UNTAC is deliberately destroying Cambodia's peace, independence, and sovereignty.

The plan of the Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and allies in and outside UNTAC is to prolong the war in Cambodia. This will also prolong the threat against the stability of Southeast Asia.

Sixteen months have passed since the Paris agreement and its signatories have entrusted to UNTAC the noble task of implementing the Paris agreement correctly, meticulously, and comprehensively, particularly the major clauses. However, the past 16 months have made the Cambodian nation and people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and all peace-loving countries the world over realize the real face of UNTAC. It is one of destroying the Paris agreement and violating the UN Charter, and international law; destroying Cambodia's (?legitimacy); and colluding with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys to constantly fuel the war in Cambodia.

Therefore, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, said in his successive statements at the end of 1992 and in early 1993 that the Vietnamese aggressors, the puppets and traitors to the nation, and UNTAC are the ones causing the deteriorated situation in Cambodia. The situation in Cambodia is bleak, with Cambodia losing peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, has repeatedly stressed that UNTAC has not done anything to get the Vietnamese aggressors out of Cambodia as stipulated in the Paris agreement. On the contrary, 16 months after UNTAC's arrival in Cambodia, the old Vietnamese are still in the country and new Vietnamese have been stampeding in.

Cambodians in and outside the country have derisively referred to UNTAC as "Yuon-teak" [a pun meaning "ensnared by the Vietnamese"]; and as "Yuon-theak" [a pun which means "being kicked by the Vietnamese"]. UNTAC has done nothing but embrace Vietnamese women and collude with the Vietnamese aggressors. A number of foreign UNTAC personalities believe that for 15 or 16 months, UNTAC has done nothing in Cambodia but ride in cars accompanied by Vietnamese women, spending thousands of millions of dollars for nothing.

Other personalities say UNTAC is not able to get the Vietnamese aggressors out of Cambodia. How can two persons named Akashi and Sanderson—who are imcompetent—be entrusted with finding peace for Cambodia? This view is also shared by 80 percent of UNTAC's middle and low-ranking personnel. These people say UNTAC is not only unable to find peace for Cambodia and to get the Vietnamese out of Cambodia, it has also colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets in the plan to eliminate the Cambodian national resistance forces. This is in order to divide up the benefits gained from the Cambodian nation and people, and so on.

In summation, the general opinion concerning UNTAC from the beginning was that at the end of 1991, hope was pinned on UNTAC. However, after they showed their form and activities in Cambodia, people have separately expressed the mutual view that UNTAC has a very bad reputation, just after Vietnam. UNTAC has played the role of peace destroyer in Cambodia and of one prolonging the war in Cambodia. It is finished.

IV. With this thinking, the prince issued a statement on 1 March 1993 expressing his view that the UNTAC mission in Cambodia has failed completely, and that this will be particularly evident after the elections in May 1993. Then, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in his role as lofty king, would take upon himself the responsibility for the destiny of the Cambodian nation. He has proposed a plan for a royal national crusade, on the one hand to prevent the war from raging in Cambodia, and on the other to find a way to reconcile the Cambodian nation.

For this reason, the PDK has expressed its willingness to help and support the prince's 1 March 1993 statement and his genuine rights and power as Cambodia's head of state.

It should be recalled that the PDK for a long time and repeatedly declared that it does not have any aim of seizing power. Democratic Kampuchea is striving to do everything in order to get the Paris agreement correctly and meticulously implemented and to grant Prince Norodom Sihanouk a role and power as SNC chairman. Only in this way can a solution be found for Cambodia's peace and national reconciliation.

[Dated] 9 March 1993
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and SNC member.

Khmer Rouge Radio Cites Sihanouk's Election Communique

BK1003070893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, issued on 7 March 1993 a communique concerning the rejection by many Cambodian residents in France of the results of elections organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

Following is the essence of the communique:

A few days ago, many Cambodian compatriots, such as those in France, wrote to me stressing that they have already rejected the results of the UNTAC-organized elections planned for next May. These Cambodians have put forward good and irrefutable arguments. This is up to Cambodian compatriots in and outside the country to voice their protest or rejection of the UNTAC-organized elections to either UNTAC or the UN secretary general.

Government Claims SRV Fueling Border Dispute

BK1003123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 10 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government charged Wednesday that Vietnam was stirring up a border dispute in southern Cambodia, in the first public accusation against their former patrons. Senior government advisor and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith told a press conference that Vietnam was persisting in building a canal in southern Takeo Province that violated Phnom Penh's interpretation of their common border. He gave no details, but said the government was trying to negotiate with the Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The Supreme National Council (SNC), grouping Cambodia's warring factions, has established a committee to look into Cambodia's actual borders, which have shifted and changed over the years with encroachment from both Thailand and Vietnam. "We think we have to wait until the committee on territorial boundaries can define clearly the exactitude of the border," Khieu Kanharith said. "If really the canal is inside Vietnamese territory, Vietnam can do anything it likes," he said, "but because these are many disputes over the border, it is best to wait."

Vietnam installed the Phnom Penh government in 1979 after ousting the Khmer Rouge in an invasion linked to border incursions by the radical faction. The 1975-79 Khmer Rouge government is blamed for the death of one million Cambodians.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said he had no reports of tension near the canal in Takeo Province. Khieu Kanharith also assured that the government would grant free air time to political parties competing in the U.N.-run elections in May. U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi has made a public demand that the government end its monopoly of the airwaves. Additionally, Khieu Kanharith said the government was cracking down on illegal weapons in the capital through roadblocks and searches of cars. He said 100 weapons have been confiscated since Saturday.

Falt said the United Nations was supervising the searches and had witnessed the seizure of 20 guns and 400 rounds of ammunition at checkpoints on Saturday night. Receipts have been issued for the property and the confiscated weapons were taken to a depository at police headquarters, Falt said.

Heng Samrin, Delegation Return From Beijing

BK0903150193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The high-ranking delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] government headed by His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the Council of State, and Madame Heng Samrin, returned home from Beijing on the afternoon of 9 March after attending the cremation of Princess Norodom Ket Kalya, alias Princess Mom, aunt of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk who passed away from illness on 1 March, at the age of 91.

Accompanying the delegation from Beijing were Venerable Supreme Patriarch Mohasumetheathippadei Tep Vong; Venerable Pouthiveang Lim Nget; Venerable Um Sum; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers; and Princess Norodom Bopha Devi, SOC deputy minister of culture.

Greeting the delegation at Pochentong Airport were CPP Central Committee Standing Committee members, including H.E. Bou Thang; H.E. Mat Li, vice chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee Control Commission; Mrs. Men Sam-an, chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; H.E. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee Control Commission; and many other officials, personalities, and monks. The representative of the Chinese ambassador to Cambodia was also on hand.

Heng Samrin Greets International Women's Day

BK0903094193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Mar 93

[8 March message of His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia—recorded]

[Text] Dear ladies, misses, and sisters: The extremely solemn occasion in which you joyously celebrate and welcome the 83d anniversary of the 8 March International Women's Day is the day of great militant solidarity of the women throughout the world fighting for their rights and freedoms, equality, democracy, and social progress. On behalf of the party and government and in my own name I would like to express most profound greetings and best wishes as well as gratitude to all of you, ladies and misses who are cadres, female combatants, female employees, female workers, female intellectuals, mothers, and sisters throughout the country. Included in my greeting are those who have just been repatriated, for having fought and continuing to fight to overcome all kinds of hardship and for actively contributing to the cause of peace and development and prosperity of the Cambodian motherland.

Dear sisters, the party and government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] are extremely proud of the great achievements made by all of you during the past 14 years, especially over the past few years of your important contribution to the rural development work. The party always pays close attention to enhancing the women's role in society and the family in order to bring about benefits and well-being for the women and children, something that was unheard-of in the three years, eight months, and 20 days of the genocidal clique's regime under which the women and children experienced nothing but heart-rending tragedies, losses, and separations.

This International Women's Day is being celebrated in an atmosphere in which the whole country is enthusiastically implementing the 23 October Paris peace agreement under the august leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council. This day is also being celebrated with the support of the United Nations and the international community in order to put an end to the destructive war that has been going on for more than two decades.

The year 1993 is the most important stage of the Paris peace agreement's implementation that will lead toward the planned general elections. These elections are the most sacred aspiration of both the party and government and all the women throughout the country. All the country's women wish to live in peace and build the country toward prosperity on the basis of respect for the country's independence and sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination to end the war and the sufferings and separations, bring about genuine and lasting peace, and resolutely prevent the return of the genocidal regime.

To date, our SOC faction has done everything it can to sincerely fulfill the agreement. However, some factions have tried and are trying to foul up and poison the neutral political atmosphere by inciting and fomenting a sense of national chauvinism and racial hatred with the intention of confusing the situation and obstructing the process of the agreement's implementation. As for the Khmer Rouge, not only have they refused to implement the agreement, but they have wantonly violated it in their ambition to seize powers through the use of violence and military attacks, thus further hindering the peace process.

In the cause of peace, national independence, and progress of the women and children of Cambodia, I would like to appeal to all of you, ladies, misses, and sisters, to cooperate with one another, unite as a single body, and spare no effort to do everything in the interest of the nation, particularly for the well-being of the women and children. I appeal to you to do all this with a high sense of responsibility and to work with the party and government to prevent all attempts to bring the danger of genocide back to Cambodia and to our people. Raise your spirit and trust in the fact that only by uniting around the party and government of the SOC and the Kampuchea United Front for National Construction and Defense can we combat the danger of genocide and bring happiness, peace, and well-being to the Cambodian women and children.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to the sisters still living abroad as well as those who have already been repatriated to work hard to understand the correct position of the Cambodian People's Party and to vigorously contribute to the cause of peace and prosperity of our motherland.

Once again, I sincerely praise all of you for your struggle and efforts to improve your living conditions in the national community, especially the sacrifices made by our sisters and mothers from all strata in the interest of the nation and in the cause of women's liberation.

In conclusion, I wish all of you, ladies, misses, and sisters throughout the country, all foreign women who are carrying out their internationalist duty in Cambodia, and all women in the world the best of health and success in all your undertakings. May you enjoy genuine rights, freedoms, and equality in society.

Law on Illegal Ownership of Weapons Promulgated

BK1003024093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 93

["31 January 1992 Law" on punishment of illegal ownership of firearms and unauthorised use of uniforms]

[Text] Article 1. People illegally wearing uniforms or badges shall be punished with one month to one year imprisonment. Authorised uniforms are robes for clergy and uniforms for officials and military, police, or civilian personnel specified by a notice.

Article 2. People illegally owning, selling, buying, and keeping, without proper authorization, all kinds of explosives, ammunition, and weapons—except for air rifles—shall be punished with one to five years imprisonment.

Article 3. People lending and renting authorized rifles, explosives, or ammunition to unauthorized people shall be punished as prescribed by article 2.

Article 4. People producing, without authorization from competent authorities, weapons, explosives, and ammunition as described in article 2 shall be punished with one to five years imprisonment.

Article 5. Proof of the offenses specified by articles 2 and 4 above shall be confiscated as state property.

Article 6. Any regulations contrary to this law shall become null and void.

This law was adopted by the State of Cambodia's First National Assembly at its 22d ordinary session on 31 January 1992.

PRACHEACHON Urges Efforts for Peace

BK1003093393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Mar 93

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Patiently Enduring All Difficulties for the Sake of Peace for Our Motherland"]

[Text] The implementation of the Paris peace agreement has drawn closer to its final day despite all the obstacles created by some political parties, particularly the Khmer Rouge, in an attempt to block the process. The general elections will be held in the near future with or without Khmer Rouge participation.

It should be noted also that until now the Khmer Rouge have not contributed at all to the implementation of the peace agreement, to which they are a signatory. In addition to this, the Khmer Rouge, utilizing the agreement, have created all kinds of obstacles and complex problems with the aim of hindering the peace process.

During the past few months, the Khmer Rouge made extensive use of two tactics which they employed simultaneously. They intensified military violations and tried to expand their controlled zone into the areas controlled by the State of Cambodia [SOC], such as in Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom. At the same time, they strived to promote their political activities under the label of the political parties which are their death-and-life allies.

It should be noted that, while the Khmer Rouge intensified military activities, political terrorism, economic sabotage, violence, covered incidents, espionage, and psychological warfare to create anarchy in society also took place in the interior of the country. They then tried to shift the target for attack by putting the blame on the SOC side.

All the incidents that took place have become an additional complex burden that has caused great difficulty for the SOC, which is the local administration. However, thanks to the truth, justice, and fortitude of the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC Government, and to the efforts to surmount difficulties and fulfill tasks displayed by our officials, armed forces, police force, and people, as well as to the close cooperation with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], we were able to cope with the situation in all aspects, thus providing the possibilities for the process of the accord implementation to move on.

This is a source of great pride for us. However, all of us should also be highly mindful that although the time from now to the election day is a short period, it is a most important period, involving the fate of both ourselves and our motherland.

This period can also be regarded as the final stage in the implementation of the peace agreement and a turning point which is very vital to our people's struggle over the past 14 years. For this reason, the general situation of our motherland might become even more complicated than now. The problems of military violations, terrorism, sabotage, espionage, and instigation of racial antagonism caused by the Khmer Rouge faction and some other political parties will eventually take place. Such activities constitute a heavy load on this delicate period, that requires vigilance and a special gift to resolve all those problems. Otherwise, we will fall into the trap of the Khmer Rouge to destroy the peace agreement, leaving a gap for them to have a pretext not to take part in the elections, which represent a golden opportunity for our people.

Our greatest goal is for our motherland and nation to have peace and security. There is no other way to bring about peace than the coming elections of the constituent ambly. Therefore, to achieve this goal, from now to the election day, everyone should exercise patience and jointly strive to endure all difficulties, fulfill all tasks, and cope with the situation in all social aspects so as to successfully carry out the coming elections of the constituent assembly.

Our officials at all levels and sectors should enhance their sense of responsibility, increase vigilance, and be wise in settling all problems and carrying out tasks by striving to closely cooperate with UNTAC and avoiding any practice or activity which brings about difficulties or becomes an obstacle to the accord implementation. At the same time, they should strive to build and strengthen internal strength in order to ensure the success of all immediate tasks; strive to check all acts of political terrorism, economic sabotage, and banditry; and ensure security and public order so as to create favorable conditions for the elections to be held successfully.

The fate of our motherland, whether good or bad, rests in the hands of our people. Peace will be restored to our unfortunate motherland if all of us are determined to patiently endure all difficulties and strive to cope with the upcoming situation.

Indonesia

Suharto Endorsed for New Term by Assembly

BK1003052093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The 10th general assembly of the People's Consultative Assembly, MPR, this morning unanimously endorsed the appointment of retired General Haji Mohamed Suharto as the president of the Republic of Indonesia for the 1993-1998 period. The endorsement of the presidential appointment was made after all factions in the MPR said that Haji Mohamed Suharto has the capabilities and experience that are suitable to lead this nation for the sake of national development continuity.

The MPR general assembly, which was led by Assembly Chairman Wahono, unanimously confirmed the election of the sole presidential candidate, Haji Mohamed Suharto, as president-elect for the next five-year term.

To Consult Factions on V-P

BK1003074893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Functional Group, Azwar Anaz, said that the People's Consultative Assembly, MPR, this morning took a realistic step when it endorsed the reelection of Haji Mohamed Suharto as the president of the Republic of Indonesia for the 1993-1998 period. This is because, even before his reelection was confirmed, Suharto was said to have all the qualities of a presidential candidate that meet the requirements of the MPR resolution No. 2/MPR/1973, and had also received unaimous support from all factions' members representing the people.

Speaking to newsmen this morning after attending the 10th plenary session of the MPR general assembly on the election of the next president in Jakarta, Azwar Anaz said following the election of the president, all factions will hold a consultative meeting with President-Elect Suharto in the latter's residence at Cendana Road. The first faction to be received by Suharto will be the Functional Group.

[Begin Anaz recording] The Functional Group will be the first faction to hold consultative talks with President Suharto to ask him whether or not he is agreeable to the election of General (retired) Try Sutrisno as vice president. In accordance to MPR regulations, we will brief him on all of the Functional Group's reasons for supporting the nomination of Gen. Try Sutrisno for the post." [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dailies Welcome Suharto Election

BK1003101593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[From the Press Review]

[Text] PIKIRAN RAKYAT says that although the intention to renominate Suharto as the president for the next five-year term had been publicised by the mass media even before the national general election was held, constitutionally, only yesterday did he officially became the presidential candidate. Right from the beginning the daily has been confident that Suharto's leadership is still needed for the next five years.

Writing on the same subject, KOMPAS says President Suharto had humbly acknowledged that it is necessary for one to answer the call of duty. With this, KOMPAS hopes that those at the top, other social groups, and the general public will emulate the president's way of thinking.

Meanwhile, BERITA YUDHA writes: in the current era, no matter where, all national leaders are generally elected neither solely because of their wits, nor for their oratical talent, and nor for their charismatic diplomacy or other superior qualities. It is their exhibiting of national characteristics that win the people's trust—consistent and firm national characteristics to protect the interests of the nation and the people.

According to BERITA YUDHA, the Indonesian nation is proud to have a national leader like Suharto, who possesses the national characteristics. REPUBLIKA daily says that, as an ordinary human being, surely President Suharto has his weaknesses; but at the same time he also has many more special talents that can cover up his weaknesses as a human being. That is why President Suharto still receives support from the people.

According to this daily, the people are willing to overlook his considerable age and human weaknesses. Even though President Suharto is getting older, physically and mentally, he remains the most suitable person to be elected as the president of the Reublic of Indonesia for the next period.

PELITA says considering that the second long-term development plan is going to be more complicated as a result of economic globalization, the President and Vice President for the 1993-1998 will have to perform a much heavier task for the nation than they did in the previous periods. Even though Suharto has said that he will not be able to contribute more energy and ideas than those he had given so far, MEDIA INDONESIA is confident that Suharto is still capable of being the operator of the national development machine, and can in fact push it much faster.

Army Clashes With East Timor Rebels

BK0903060193 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 20 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Dili, East Timor (JP)—At least one FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] member was shot and killed, another was seriously wounded and one Armed Forces (ABRI) member died in three separate skirmishes between the armed rebel movement group and the military, over the past few days. Another FRETILIN member also surrendered to the authorities in Hatugao, Ermera regency, 30 kilometers southwest of here Wednesday. Bonifasio, identified as a FRETILIN platoon commander, was shot and killed in a gun battle with ABRI troops in Soro village, Los Palos regency, on Wednesday. Carollina, a female member of the anti-integration movement, was in critical condition at a local hospital after she was shot in a separate incident on the same day. "She is still in coma," according to an unidentified military source here.

The source said the authorities confiscated Rp [Rupiah]30,000 (US$14.52), an undisclosed amount in Portuguese currency, two guns and hundreds of bullets. On Tuesday, an ABRI patrol troop engaged in a fierce battle with a group of FRETILIN members who were on their way to Manatuto from Viqueque regency. One ABRI soldier was killed.

Major Simbolon, spokesman for the Dili military command, was not available for comment, but an officer at the military headquarters confirmed that ABRI members had been involved in a shootout with FRETILIN rebels in the area. The officer, who declined to be identified, said he did not know that an ABRI soldier was killed in the incident. "What I know is ABRI members are now pursuing the rebels," the officer added.

The shootout reportedly took place when the rebels encountered ABRI soldiers along the border of the three neighboring regencies of Manatuto, Viqueque and Baucau. Domingos Soares, 30, another FRETILIN member from Hatugao village, who surrendered to the authorities Wednesday, has returned to his family after declaring his acceptance of integration and his loyalty to the government during a traditional East Timorese ceremony on Thursday. Domingos said he surrendered after he heard that his father, Joaquim Soares, had surrendered to the authorities on January 28.

Meanwhile, an ABRI courier said here Thursday that 20 FRETILIN members would surrender to the authorities in the near future. More and more FRETILIN members have surrendered since ABRI intensified its territorial operations in the province and following the capture of their leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao.

Minister Discloses 1992 Export, Import Figures

BK0903131793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Trade Minister Arifin Siregar says Indonesia's exports in 1992 reached $33.917 million. This represents an increase of 16 percent over 1991. Oil and gas exports totaled $10.6 billion, while non-oil and non-gas exports amounted to $23.3 billion. Minister Arifin Siregar disclosed the figures to reporters after he called on President Suharto at the latter's residence on Cendana Street this afternoon. The trade minister was accompanied by Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industry, and Industry Minister Hartarto.

Minister Arifin Siregar said that Indonesia's imports in 1992 amounted to $27.03 billion. Thus, the country enjoyed a trade surplus of $6.8 billion in 1992. With an export volume of almost $6 billion, textiles topped Indonesia's nonoil and nongas exports. Textiles were followed by processed wood, footwear, and processed rubber.

According to the minister, Indonesia's nonoil and nongas exports, which have reached more than $2 billion monthly since August 1992, are expected to increase even more. As for oil and gas exports in 1992, they dropped by 2.6 percent over 1991. The minister also reported to President Suharto on the Uruguay Round to which Indonesia attaches great importance because its failure might lead to a trade war. [passage omitted]

1991-92 Domestic, Foreign Investments Decline

BK1003115593 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Jakarta—In the last two years, domestic and foreign (PMDN, PMA) investments have declined in Indonesia both in value as well as in the number of projects. Data from the Data Processing Section of the Capital Investment Coordination Agency (BKPM) show that in 1990, domestic (PMDN) investments reached a value of 55.3 trillion rupiahs covering 1,316 projects. In 1991, however, PMDN investments declined to 41 trillion rupiahs with only 802 projects. These figures show a further decline in 1992. The invested capital reached only 20 trillion rupiahs covering 436 projects.

In the PMA sector, investments in 1990 reached a value of 17 trillion rupiahs with 432 projects. In 1992, however, the number of projects declined to 376 projects, but the investment value remained 17 trillion rupiahs. According to the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, Ilkhaidi Ellyas, the decline in investments in 1991 and 1992 was due to various factors, including the introduction of the government policy to cool down the heated economic climate through the postponement of various mega projects.

"Other factors, which caused the decline, were the introduction of the "tight money policy," the high interest rates, and the limited available technical infrastructures and facilities, including electric power, ports, transportation, and telecommunications," Ilkhaidi Ellyas said at a hearing of top officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commission VI of the Parliament some time ago. Apart from the factors, political changes in various countries towards the market economy such as Russia and Eastern Europe had opened the opportunity for investors to shift their investments to these countries.

However, the development of investments in the industrial sector in 1992 showed an encouraging picture through an improving investment climate at home as a consequence of the application of various deregulation policies, including easy facilities for foreign investments, simplification of the investment procedure, the lowering of interest rates, and the relocation of industries of Asian countries to Indonesia, Ilkhaidi Ellyas said.

The Indonesia Government has welcomed the increase of South Korean investment in the country in a bid to strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two nations. "South Korean industrialists in reallocating the investments in Indonesia should not only take into account the low production costs in Indonesia but also the marketing prospect in the future, particularly in the framework of the Asia-Pacific cooperation," Sugihono Kadarusman, deputy chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) said at a recent investment seminar in Pusan, South Korea.

A report from the Indonesian Embassy in Seoul received by ANTARA here on Wednesday said the aim of the seminar jointly organized by BKPM, the Indonesian Embassy in Seoul, and the Pusan Chamber of Commerce was to attract more South Korean investors to do business in Indonesia. Sugihono said that the current investment climate in Indonesia is profitable, proved by increasing number of foreign investors who are doing business in Indonesia.

"The Korean investment in Indonesia has so far reached a total value of U.S. $2.96 billion with 277 projects in 1992," he added. According to him, the business opportunity in Indonesia is widely open, not only in the manufacture industry but also in tourism and agro-industry.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Ambassador R. [Rudolf] Kasenda said at the seminar that the investment and economic ties between Indonesia and South Korea have considerably increased marked by increasing trade volumes and values. "The trade volumes and values of oil/gas and nonoil/gas commodities between the two countries had been increasing significantly," Kasenda said. While in South Korea, the 11-member Indonesian investment mission to South Korea led by Sugihono Kadarusman has talks with Korean businessmen and closely observed electronic factories and shoe industry in Seoul.

Officials Admit Inflation Rate 'Still High'

BK1003093093 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Excerpt] The finance minister and governor of the Central Bank (BI) Tuesday admitted that inflation rate was still high during the last two months due to the adjustment of prices of some basic commodities. Inflation rate in February reached 2.03 percent, slightly declined from 2.92 percent in January. "We should control the inflation rate carefully in the future," [Governor] Adrianus Mooy said. In the eleven months of 1992/93 fiscal year, the inflation rate reached 8.54 percent.

[Finance Minister] Sumarlin expected that in March the inflation rate is expected to decline. So along the fiscal year, the rate would be less than 10 percent. Mooy said that despite high inflation rate, Indonesia would keep its economic growth at 6 percent per annum. "But we are trying to control inflation rate while keeping the significant growth," Mooy added. It means, said Mooy, the number of money supply must be controlled carefully in addition to controlling credit and interest rate. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Legislators Oppose State of Emergency Plan

HK0903095393 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Several sectors of society have expressed strong opposition to Malacanang's plan to declare a state of emergency in view of the energy crisis. [passage omitted] Former President Ferdinand E. Marcos used this 'tactic' as a weapon to launch a crackdown against his opposers and critics.

Senator Ernesto M. Maceda has expressed concern that President Fidel V. Ramos' proposal to declare a state of emergency in order to solve the energy crisis in the country might lead to martial law. In an interview with DZRH, Maceda said that if the energy crisis is the only problem, there is no need for emergenecy powers. Maceda added it is merely a financial and management problem on the part of the National Power Corporation [Napocor] which must be of concern to the government and which will not need any more extra powers for the president. [passage omitted]

House Speaker Jose de Venecia, on the other hand, has defended Ramos' plan to declare a state of national emergency. De Venecia explained that the president needs emergency powers in order to hasten the construction of power plants without too much investigation and congressional inquiry. De Venecia clarified that the proposal to declare a state of emergency was not initiated by the Senate but by the Office of the President. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Maceda criticized House Speaker Jose De Venecia for endorsing the plan to declare a state of national emergency. Maceda stressed 'emergency powers' means outright abolition of the two Houses of Congress which exposed anomalies regarding fast-track power projects. [passage omitted]

The majority of senators have declared that Ramos does not need emergency powers in order to solve the worsening power crisis in the country. In separate statements, most members of the Upper Chamber stated that granting emergency powers to the chief executive in order to solve the power crisis is not needed at the moment. Senate President Edgardo J. Angara, on the other hand, proposed that Congress help the executive branch in studying the present powers of the Departrtmemnt of Energy to solve the energy crisis. Angara said the energy secretary can solve the problem; that is why he was granted powers to reorganize the agency.

Senators Maceda and Ernesto Herrera said: We oppose the president's stand to invoke special emergency powers to address the energy crisis. It is totally unnecessary. [preceding two sentences in English]

The two senators added that the instant Ramos is given emergency powers, he will have the power to intervene and take over the utilities of private companies.

Senator Arturo Tolentino said money is needed to fix the dilapidated power plants and change them to modern ones. He added that if the president is unable to find money in the treasury, he should stop paying the national debt and use the money for the sake of the nation. Senator Blas F. Ople said emergenecy powers are not needed to discipline incompetent government agencies, especially the Napocor.

A minority of the House of Representatives has strongly opposed Ramos' plan to declare a state of national emergency. [passage omitted] House Minority Leader Hernando Perez said the plan is a wrong step which might result in martial law. [passage omitted]

Ramos To Review U.S. Ties, Clinton Policies 19 Mar

HK1003054093 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos will convene the National Security Council [NSC] at Malacanang on 19 March. This will be the second time the president has met with the council to discuss major issues facing the nation. Among the topics to be discussed are, first, relations with the United States, particularly the new policies of Bill Clinton's administration and their effects on the Philippines. The National Economic Development Authority will talk about this issue. Second is the security of the Asia-Pacific Region. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo will talk on this particular topic. Another topic will be ASEAN's role in the government's effort to promote economic growth in the region. Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro will discuss this matter. The last is an assessment of President Ramos' visits to Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan.

The National Security Council comprises President Ramos, Vice President Joseph Estrada, NSC Adviser Jose Almonte, former Philippine presidents Corazon Aquino and Diosdado Macapagal, other cabinet members, selected senators and congressmen, military leaders, and selected representatives of the private sector.

House Examines Armed Forces Modernization Proposal

HK1003092293 Quezon City MALAYA in English 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] It will cost government P211 billion [Philippine pesos] to finance the 15-year modernization program being proposed by the defense department, and another P19 billion to upgrade and relocate some military camps, military officials said yesterday. Testifying before the House Committee on National Defense, Navy Commodore Armando Madamba said P78 billion has been pegged for the modernization of the Air Force, while P36 billion would be allotted for the Army. About P64 billion will be for the upgrading of the Navy, while the remaining P33 billion will go to the other units.

Defense officials refused to reveal the specifics of the program, citing security reasons. Rep. [Representative] Roilo Golez (Lakas [Strength], Paranaque), however, cited the need for members of Congress to be briefed on the viability of the program, saying the time frame of 15 years may be overtaken by technological advancements, security threats in the Asia-Pacific region and the government's capability.

Defense Assistant Secretary Ramon Nieva suggested that Congress devise a plan that will enable them to divulge details of the program without endangering its confidentiality. An executive session could be a solution, he said. The members of the panel have agreed in principle to endorse the bill for floor deliberations, Golez stressed the importance of the bill, noting that the patrol time of Navy ships severely declined last year.

Meanwhile, the house panel also endorsed a bill increasing the monthly basic salaries of military personnel from the ranks of general to third class trainee, even as the budget department expressed doubts whether government can produce P9 billion which is initially needed to implement the plan. The proposed increases in basic salary for each military rank range from P1,000 to P7,000 on top of current salary rates.

Manila Passes IMF Standby Credit 'Hurdle'

HK0803054093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 Mar 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] The country has successfully passed the last hurdle set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the release of the final tranche of its standby credit arrangement (SBA). Between $75 million and $80 million in Special Drawing Rights will be available to the country by April.

In a letter to Bruce Smith, IMF's regional representative to the Asia-Pacific region, Finance Secretary Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr. reported the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) stood at P20.4 billion [Philippine pesos] last December, well below the IMF-imposed ceiling for the period of P21.9 billion.

The PSBR figure is the last of six parameters closely monitored by the Fund under the Economic Stabilization Program.

It is a crucial indicator of the country's fiscal health, referring to the combined cash deficit of the National Government, 14 major government-owned and -control-led corporations (GOCCs), and the Oil Price Stabilization fund (OPSF). [sentence as published]

The IMF periodically reviews the country's performance against fiscal and monetary targets before approving the release of each tranche of the $370-million SBA.

All told, the IMF seal of good housekeeping is worth almost $300 million in new drawable funds for the country this year. The country's successful compliance with the IMF-imposed PSBR limit may also pave the way for the release of two separate "augmentation fund" packages from the IMF and World Bank of $100 million each.

Earlier estimates by the finance department had the country missing the PSBR ceiling by a relatively small P200-million margin. "Compared with the preliminary figure submitted to you last month, the actual results show a P1.3-billion improvement, primarily due to the lower deficits posted by the 14 GOCCs," Mr. del Rosario's letter read.

Mr. Smith also headed the mission sent over by the Fund last month for the initial round of talks with Government on a possible successor program for the country.

During the last review period covering September to December, 1992, the country was able to keep within most of the targets set by the Fund, except for the base money figure, which the country overshot by P500 million. The mission headed by Mr. Smith, however, agreed to overlook this if the country were to keep within the PSBR limit.

Joint Congress Body Approves Rebel Amnesty Program

HK1003091293 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The Bicameral Conference Committee of the upper and lower houses of Congress has approved Committee Resolution No. 16 which concurs with Proclamations 10 and 10A and Committee Resolution No. 3 which favors the granting of amnesty to rebels under Executive Order No. 350. Executive Order No. 350 was amended by Proclamations 10 and 10A. Senator Rodolfo Biazon, chairman of the Senate panel, said 4,000 former rebels will benefit from the approval.

[Begin Biazon recording] ...granting amnesty to more than 4,000 ex-rebels who surrendered to the administration of President Cory Aquino. This is a program of President Cory Aquino being officialized by the administration of President Ramos. [end recording]

The resolution will be submitted to President Ramos for final approval. The house panel was led by Congressman Jose Yap. The resolution was signed by the committee members at the General Ricarte Room in Camp Aguinaldo.

Unification Body Opens Peace Consultations

HK1003093493 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] has opened peace negotiations with high ranking Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA- NDF] leaders in the Visayas and Mindanao with the help of the church as well as several cause-oriented groups. A Malacanang official said that the NUC has spoken with Bejamin de Vera of the Mindanao Committee and Maria Concepcion Araneta Bocalan, another rebel leader in Panay island, both reportedly allies of Romulo Kintanar, the former NPA chief. The NUC has also coordinated with NPA Melito Glor Command's Gregorio Rosal, an ally of Jose Maria Sison, the exiled leader of the CPP-NPA-NDF.

The official added that a human rights group composed of leftist Satur Ocampo and rightist Captain Danilo Lim has also made similar consultations with the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union and CPP-NPA-NDF. The group, he added, has also been exerting its best efforts to reach out to the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The group has been making separate consultations with the aim of unifying various factional positions which they will submit to the NUC. The group has opposed consultations made by the NUC, stressing that only the national leadership should be consulted in outlining the amnesty package.

Editorial Criticizes Ramos State of Emergency Plan

HK1003120893 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Darkness at Noon"]

[Text] When first heard, it sounded like just so much idle talk or wild speculation of paranoid individuals. "Why can't the government solve kidnappings and other crimes?" some people asked in private dinners. "Could it be that the administration doesn't want to solve them? Could it be it is laying the basis for the declaration of martial law?" No way, others said. Didn't President Ramos reject firmly and unequivocally Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's suggestion that the Philippines adopt authoritarian rule? An authoritarian "quick fix" won't solve the country's ills, Mr. Ramos said. "Without democracy, we cannot truly win development." But that was in November last year.

Now we have it again straight from the horse's month: Mr. Ramos wants to place the country under "a state of emergency." The announcement just came out of the blue, said reporters who were at his regular weekly press conference Monday. "The president, under certain limited parameters, may proclaim an emergency situation," Mr. Ramos said. "I am now studying very carefully... looking at the energy situation as an emergency situation." Just hours earlier, Mr. Ramos was telling the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel he saw "no need to assume emergency powers."

Which is which, only the President himself can say. Maybe he hasn't really made up his mind. Or maybe he has, but he just wants to test the water first. If it's the latter, he has succeeded immensely: Everyone's rushing to have his say on the matter. Not only that, he has learned that half of Congress, which must approve such emergency powers under the Constitution, would go with him all the way. The ever loyal Speaker Jose de Venecia didn't waste a moment to assure Mr. Ramos he would have the support of the House of Representatives. (The idea must have revived fond memories of his life during Marcos' martial law, behest loans and all.)

One look at his reason seems to indicate how easily he takes to the idea of authoritarian rule. Not for him are such lofty justifications his cousin invoked, like "saving the republic and reforming society." All he would offer is the need to address "the very severe power shortage."

Exactly what additional power he needs to solve the crisis, Mr. Ramos did not say. As some senators have noted, the President already has all the powers to deal with the crisis, which is mainly caused by the inaction and corruption at the National Power Corporation [Napocor]. If Napocor officials can't deliver—something that has been amply demonstrated—he can fire them himself or order the energy secretary to do the firing. If they are corrupt, as many are without doubt, he could have them prosecuted. Then people can get their money's worth from the Napacor.

If the problem is money, there are De Venecia and Rep [Representative] Rolando Andaya to give him everything he needs, with all extras thrown in if he so wishes. (If the chairman of the appropriations committee can approve the transfer of P480 million [Philippine pesos] for Mactan International Airport to fund a project of Liberty Broadcast Network on the mere say-so of Sen [Senator] John Osmena, what won't he do for Mr. Ramos?)

The only power the President doesn't have is to order the take over of MERALCO. But this won't add a single watt of electricity. Could it be that Mr. Ramos wants to have the authority to confiscate every small generator that offices, shops and some households were forced to buy to minimize losses or the inconvenience caused by prolonged power blackouts?

It's quite obvious, Mr. Ramos have given the lamest excuse for seeking emergency powers. But maybe it's part of the conditioning process. Will we see soon a deterioration in the peace and order situation? Shall we hear about some assassinations, real or faked? Under the guise of giving us light, Mr. Ramos may let us again experience darkness at high noon.

Thailand

Foreign Ministry To Send Election Observers to Cambodia

BK1003140193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] The United Nations has asked Thailand to send observers to polling stations during the elections in Cambodia. First Lieutenant Rawi Hongpraphat, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said that his ministry is seeking cabinet approval for sending 25 officials to Cambodia by 31 March to join with another 55 countries to observe the upcoming general elections. In addition, Thailand has sent 40 volunteers to Cambodia under a one-year term to cooperate with Japan in a rehabilitation project for Cambodia. Rawi believed that fighting in Cambodia will drag on if the Khmer Rouge has no part in national administration after the general elections. The Phnom Penh government may hold that the Khmer Rouge is an outlawed element and crack down on it. However, if the constitution opens a chance for outsiders to join in the administration, the Khmer Rouge may be able to join the government.

Russian Ship's Arrival Prompts Port Blockade

BK1003022393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Mar 93 p A1

[Text] Hundreds of operators of local lighters and barges blocked Bangkok Port with their vessels yesterday to protest the presence of a Lash-laden Russian ship they viewed as "illegal" foreign competition.

The Thai navy was reportedly put on alert in the event that the situation deteriorated, informed sources said. Police, meanwhile, were planning to prevent more vessels from joining the protest.

The blockade against eight Lashes dropped from its mother ship to collect Thai rice also stranded over 100 other cargo vessels preparing to leave the port. About 20 ships were waiting to be docked.

Only a Norwegian cruise ship and small boats were allowed to pass through the unprecedented siege which spanned from the Phra Khanong canal to the entrance of the port area.

The protesters said the Russian ship, which arrived last month, illegally entered Thai waters and damaged their business. They said Thai maritime law does not allow such activities by foreign vessels in Thai waters.

A Lash is a loaded container dropped into the sea by a mother ship for later collection by tug boats, or lighter operators. The system is thought to be cheaper and more convenient than conventional unloading carried out by cranes at ports.

The Russian ship is here to transport more than 12,500 tonnes of rice to Russia under a government-to-government deal between Thailand and Russia.

Wichian Siwichian, chairman of a Thai river transport labour union, said local lighter operators had lodged complaints with the government several times, but to no avail. He said the presence of the Russian Lash in Thai waters is against the Thai Ship Laws BE [Buddhist Era] 2491.

The Juridical Council has interpreted that the Lash is a part of the international transport system, so is not considered illegal.

Wichian, however, claimed that the council listened to only one side of the argument. He said a Lash could transport something to Thailand, but not the other way round.

Wimon Mongkhonyut, secretary of a river transport labour union, said local lighter operators wanted the government to file a lawsuit against foreign ships and punish government officials who allowed the Lash to sail into Thai waters.

Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Sawai Phatthano, Vice Adm Somnuk Thepphawan, the Port Authority of Thailand director general, held talks with the protesters yesterday evening.

After the six-hour tense meeting, Sawai said the protesters agreed at 9 pm to allow the Norwegian cruise ship Seaborn Spirit, with about 70 passengers, to leave the port.

The Norwegian Embassy had earlier contacted the Foreign Ministry and Police Department, requesting that the Seaborn Spirit be allowed to leave. The protesters initially seemed to be holding the luxury liner hostage, saying they would let it go only after the government agreed to their demands.

The blockade continued after the Seaborn Spirit was allowed to leave.

Sawai told reporters after the meeting that he had ordered the Russian vessel to be brought out of the port area as soon as possible.

"How soon will depend on the Harbours Department," he said.

Sawai told the protesters he would pass the issue to the House of Representatives and government legal experts. He also asked them to allow the Lash ship carrying rice to depart.

About 10 conventional vessels were waiting to leave the port as of last night.

Sawai said Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan were regularly kept infommed of the situation.

"The prime minister wants a peaceful and quick solution to the problem. He said if the blockade drags on, it will create tension," Sawai said.

Assistant police chief Chumphon Atthasat said the police were ready to "clear the area" if ordered by the government.

"If negotiations failed, we might have to clear the area. But that will depend on the government," Chumphon said.

Settlement Reported

BK1003145393 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] There has been a settlement to the protest by local barge operators who blocked the passage from Phra Khanong Canal to Khlong Toei Port yesterday. Communications Minister Colonel Winai Somphong said local operators had erroneously thought that the Russian lighters, or lashes, which loaded cargoes at Khlong Toei Port, were snatching away their jobs.

The Association of Thai Ship Owners and other concerned authorities this morning negotiated with the two conflicting parties. Both sides finally reached a compromise. The Communications Ministry will discuss with the Commerce Ministry in order to seek understanding from foreign vessel companies on future loading and unloading—they will be asked to move their operations to Laem Chabang Port in order to avoid problems which could affect Thailand's future exports.

[Begin recording] [Winai] ... of Thai Ship Owners for having achieved a settlement through compromise. This is good for Thailand's image. It would not be good for the country if we allowed our port to be closed like that. We still depend on foreign vessels for our exports. [end recording]

Air Force Chief Rules Out Reshuffle for Top Officers

BK1003023793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip said yesterday that none of the top five marshals will be transferred in next month's mid-year military reshuffle.

According to Air Chief Marshal Kan, who left for Japan to visit its self-defence air force yesterday, Deputy Air Force Commander-in -Chief ACM Suthep Thepparak will not be moved as earlier expected.

ACM Suthep, a close associate of ex-Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, was said to be facing a transfer to the Supreme Command Headquarters or the Defence Ministry next month to make way for another "unnamed" marshal to fill one of the top five positions.

ACM Kan's remark ended speculation that ACM Roengchai Sanitphan, attached to the Air Force Headquarters, would be given a foothold in the "waiting line" of the top promotions list possibly as the next Air Force Commander-in-Chief in the annual reshuffle in October.

Importers Perceive AFTA-Inspired Difficulties

BK1003031793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 93 p 30

[Text] Thai importers are still facing difficulties bringing products into the country under the lower duties of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) programme, sources say.

Two problems are said to be holding up the programme: the failure of some countries to issue the customs form that ASEAN has agreed should accompany exported goods that meet AFTA's local content of AFTA; and the failure of Thai importers to provide the appropriate local content certificates.

Thai importers have complained that Malaysian customs officials are not using "Form Cs", as agreed by ASEAN members as a temporary measure until proper AFTA forms are issued in July.

Thai Customs Department director general Aran Thammano said he had instructed his officials to remind their Malaysian colleagues of the decision to allow Form Cs to be used temporarily even though the forms were not designed for tke 40 percent ASEAN content rule adopted under AFTA.

"I assure you that if the problems between Thailand and Malaysia are only at the Customs Departments level, then we can solve them ourselves because I and the Malaysian Customs director general have no conflicts between us at all," Mr Aran said.

"But if it is a problem of government policy, then the Foreign Ministry will have to negotiate."

One source said some Thai importers are facing problems because although their purchases are accompanied by the correct Form Cs, they do not have the appropriate certificate of origin issued by the exporting country's trade ministry.

Therefore, the Thai Customs Department has been collecting the normal duty on these products. But the source added that refunds will be made if the proper documents are submitted later.

Vietnam

Spokesman Comments on UN Cambodian Resolution

BK0903154393 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 9 Mar 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—The United Nations Security Council on March 8 adopted a resolution on the Cambodia issue 'expressing strong concern at recent reports by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] of a small number of foreign military personnel serving with the armed forces of the State of Cambodia in violation of the Paris agreement' and 'emphasising the importance of the immediate removal of all foreign forces, advisors of military personnel from Cambodia.'

Asked by Vietnamese and foreign journalists to comment on the question, the spokesperson of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today said:

'Vietnam's stance on UNTAC's attitude towards a number of Vietnamese who had served in the Vietnamese armed forces in Cambodia, have long returned to civilian life and are now living in Cambodia was clearly stated in the March 2, 1992 statement. We have nothing to add.

What needs to be stressed here is that the world public has always been looking forward to an objective and fair attitude of the U.N. Security Council in the settlement of international issues including the Cambodia issue.

Everyone knows that the implementation of the Paris agreement is facing many difficulties caused by acts of sabotage carried out by the Democratic Kampuchea faction. The UN Security Council's March 8 resolution as well as the UNTAC report which put on a par the sides which have strictly implement the Paris agreement and the saboteurs of the agreement are not objective and serve only to encourage the acts of sabotage against the Paris agreement at the determent of the peace process in Cambodia.

Together with the UNTAC report, the Security Council's resolution which considers civilians who are legally living in Cambodia as 'foreign force' and demands their expulsion regardless of their desire and even resulting in their family dispersion, is contrary to the conventions on human rights adopted by the UN.

For its part, Vietnam has many times stressed that its consistent policy is to strictly implement the Paris agreement on Cambodia, strictly respect the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people, non-interference in Cambodia's internal affairs in any form, and to be always ready to cooperate in a constructive spirit with all concerned parties in the process of implementing the agreement so that Cambodia can become a peaceful, independent, neutral and non-aligned country, thus contributing to peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Commentary Views U.S. Normalization Talks

BK0903150793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam and the United States have held their fourth round of talks in Hawaii. Their previous prenegotiations were organized in Indonesia, Central America, and Fiji in South Pacific. Are there any differences between the fourth and the previous talks? Here is our radio editor's opinion:

The fourth round of Vietnam-U.S. talks took place over four days in (?the middle of) last February. During the meeting, Vietnam reaffirmed its intention to befriend all countries in the world. Vietnam showed its stronger posture, firmness, and self-control capacity. Since implementation of the national renovation process, Vietnam has attained important achievements which have been recognized by countries all over the world. In addition, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with many countries in the region and the world.

Meanwhile, according to Mr. Tran Van Phat, vice chairman of the National Assembly External Relations Committee, who participated in these talks, the U.S. is still haunted by the memory of the Vietnam war. The U.S. Administration still ignores the legitimate aspirations of the people in the two countries and has lost many chances to improve mutual understanding, to create a new change in the relations between Vietnam and the United States. That is why following these meetings, many U.S. senators demanded that the U.S. normalize relations with Vietnam.

Mr. Larry Pressler, senator of the Republican Party, has voiced this demand at the U.S. Senate. He said that we wanted to close the chapter on the Vietnam war and that it was time to take new steps in the history of the relations between Vietnam and the United States. He also proposed that President Bill Clinton work out a new process in the road map by lifting the trade embargo against Vietnam and that he should set up diplomatic relations with Hanoi.

Prime Minister Receives South Korean Official

BK0903155193 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the presidential palace here this afternoon a delegation of the Republic of Korea's Red Cross led by its President Yung Hun-kang [name as received].

Prof. Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health, and R.O.K. Ambassador Pak No-su were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the reception, Prime Minister Kiet said that the relation between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea in general and between the two Red Cross organisations in particular, has made significant progress to which Mr. Yung Hun-kang has made a notable contributions. Premier Vo Van Kiet said Vietnam is very much interested in the Republic of Korea's experiences in national construction and development as well as the R.O.K. Red Cross humanitarian activities.

For his part, Mr. Yung Hun-kang highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government's and the prime minister's personal concern with cooperative relations between the two Red Cross organisations. In the past three years, the R.O.K. Red Cross gave a total aid of U.S.$100,000 and more than 30 tonnes of textile and garments to Vietnam through the Vietnam Red Cross.

Thai Premier Receives Vietnamese Envoy in Bangkok

BK0903155393 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai received in Bangkok today Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Trung who paid him a farewell visit at the end of his term of office in Thailand.

The Thai prime minister expressed his joy at the constant development of the friendship between Thailand and Vietnam, which finds vivid expressions in the recent official Vietnam visits by Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkhon and Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon.

He also expressed his wish for further development of bilateral economic cooperation including cooperation in exploiting the resources of the Mekong River.

The Thai prime minister took this opportunity to convey thanks to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for having invited him to visit Vietnam.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

BK0903153793 Hanoi VNA in English 1422 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—A high-level delegation of the Lao Government led by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, arrived in Hanoi today for a working visit to Vietnam.

The delegation also includes Bounsom Bounphavan, vice-chairman of a governmental commission; Louatsom Bounkhan, vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission, and other senior officials.

The delegation was received at the government guest house by Phan Van Khai, deputy prime minister and Politburo member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee; Do Quoc Sam, cabinet minister and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Dau Ngoc Xuan, cabinet minister and chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister and others.

Cuban Officer Praises Rice Donation

BK0903130993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview in the Cuban journal GRANMA on 16 March, Comrade (Jaime Hernandez), chairman of Cuba's Committee for Solidarity With Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, said: The 10,000 tonnes of rice presented by Vietnam as a gift to the Cuban people has contributed to strengthening the Cuban people's determination to defend their national sovereignty. Comrade (Jaime) also pointed out that the ideological like-mindedness of the two countries is one of the reasons why joint solidarity and friendship have increasingly developed.

PRC Lawyer Delegation Visits

BK0903061793 Hanoi VNA in English 0559 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—A delegation of lawyers from the Chinese province of Guangxi, led by He Jiatang, director of the Guangxi Justice Department and head of the Guangxi Lawyers' League, is visiting Vietnam as guest of the Thang Long Legal Consultancy Centre and the Vietnam-China Friendship Company. Yesterday, the seven-member delegation had working session with the Hanoi Laywers' League. Lawyer Vu Khac Toan, head of the Hanoi Lawyers' League welcomed the expansion of the legal cooperation between Vietnam and China. The two sides compared notes on their respective legal policies and criminal and civil laws, legal structures, juridical procedures and the professional activities of their respective lawyers.

Foreign Firms View Mining Risks, Rewards

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[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, March 10 (AFP)—From the white sands of Cam Ranh Bay to a phosphate-filled valley near the Chinese border, Vietnam is a gold mine of largely untapped mineral resources, experts say.

But for most international mining companies, the risks of operating in Vietnam have so far outweighed the riches. Exploration is inadequate, and protecting a site from individual fortune hunters can be impossible. "In populated areas, it's a nightmare," said a Western economist with long experience in the mining industry. "You drill a few test holes, and by the next morning 500 guys with picks and shovels are destroying your investment."

Conditions are poised to change, however. Vietnam is drafting, with United Nations and Australian Government assistance, a comprehensive mining code expected to become law next year. If the new code is effectively enforced, Vietnam can expect a mineral rush resembling the last few years' scramble for offshore oil concessions, foreign mining company officials say.

A few firms have decided not to wait. Westralian Sands Ltd. last week launched a joint venture to develop titanium minerals in Ha Tinh province, central Vietnam. "There's no question that there's a risk, but we are operating on the assumption that the Vietnamese are so hungry for foreign investment that they won't change the rules," Westralian Sands chairman Ken Court told AFP. Another Australian firm, Pulsar Graphite Ltd., should receive its license for a graphite mining project this week, Vietnamese sources said.

After crude oil, coal was Vietnam's principal mineral export and third-largest foreign exchange earner last year, with 5.47 million tonnes mined and 1.6 million tonnes exported—much of it top-grade anthracite. Vietnam earns smaller amounts through exports of tin, lead, zinc, marble, granite and white silica sands, but Vietnamese officials and foreign experts say far greater mineral wealth remains untapped.

A phosphate deposit at Lao Cai, near the Chinese border, is described by a foreign expert as "the only one in the region big enough to have an annual export counted in the millions of tonnes."

Hanoi is seeking foreign investors for two other huge projects, iron ore mining in Ha Tinh and a possible aluminum plant atop the massive bauxite reserves of southern Vietnam's Lam Dong province, according to U.N. officials who are aiding the search. Vietnam's mountainous north is rich with gold, but most of it is alluvial, better suited to villagers with sluice buckets than international mining companies.

But individual fortune-seekers can wreak havoc. Nearly 100 people died in fights and mining accidents after rubies were discovered in 1991 in Nghe Ane Province, prompting Hanoi to send in the army to reimpose order. Landslides killed close to 200 others digging for tin and manganese in northern provinces last year, according to Vietnamese press reports.

Small-time miners armed with explosives are destroying the value of marble deposits in northern and central Vietnam, in some cases described as equal in quality to Italy's finest. The blasts can riddle entire deposits with cracks.

Since the bulk of Vietnam's minerals lie in the northern half of the country, their development could help redress the north's politically dangerous economic imbalance with the south, observers note. But the same geological forces that endowed the region with mineral wealth have produced rugged terrain and myriad fault lines, making exploration daunting.

"What they've used up to now is Soviet knowledge and technology—which is among the worst in the world," the Western economist said of Vietnam's mineral exploration efforts. Since Vietnam's infrastructure is dismal, foreign companies often must be prepared to build roads, rail lines, port facilities and sometimes even hydropower dams before bringing mineral products to market.

"We need foreign capital, technology and expertise to develop the minerals," said a senior heavy industry ministry official who asked not to be named. "It will be at least 10 years before we can even hope to do it ourselves.

Ministry Reports Foreign Investment Status

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[Text] The minister of light industry, Mr. Dang Vu Chu, made known that in five years, since the promulgation of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, Vietnam has had 189 foreign invested projects in light industry with a total capital of 7.8 million U.S. dollars. Taiwan takes the lead with 39 projects, followed by Hong Kong with 30 projects, then Singapore, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

The biggest investment project is 41 million U.S. dollars owned by Saigon [words indistinct] to produce monosodium glutamate and instant noodle. Russells, a major French pharmaceutical manufacturer, which set up its factory in Saigon in 1958, has proposed to expand its joint venture with Vietnam with an estimated capital of 10 million U.S. dollars. And in a newly-proposed joint venture contract, Russells will increase its share from 31 to 60 percent.

Vo Van Kiet Discusses Haiphong Economic Potential

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[Text] On 6 and 7 March, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Miniters Phan Van Khai and Tran Duc Luong paid a working visit to Haiphong Municipality to discuss the socioeconomic tasks for 1993. Comrades Le Danh Xuong, secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Dao An, chairman of the Haiphong People's Committee; and other leading cadres briefed the Prime Minister on the municipality's 1992 work and 1993 tasks.

Speaking to leading municipality cadres, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet commended Haiphong for its socioeconomic progress in 1992 and said these will create favorable conditions for 1993 tasks. He stressed: The most important thing is that we must realize that the municipality is the economic and business center of the northern region. As a result, we must formulate immediate and long-term socioeconomic plans to develop this port city in the new spirit of optimally exploiting its great potential and maintaining its role as the nation's second largest port city. In fact, the municipality has already diversified its industries with its large contingent of skilled workers and many good economic models. It has become a great attraction to foreigners for investment in various kinds of businesses. The Prime Minister said all economic development program tasks for the municipality must be closely combined with that of the social development program in order to make Haiphong an open market, while retaining its national traditional culture. There must be efforts to design an appropriate mechanism to attract more foreign investments in line with the diversification of economic ties and promotion of friendship. The government will conduct research on and will invest more money in developing the Hanoi-Haiphong-Quang Ninh economic triangle. However, the municipality must actively and effectively exploit local resources, invest more in various key projects for prompt results, urgently exploit natural resources on the Bach Long Vi and other islands, while establishing new administrative units to effectively carry out economic as well as national defense tasks. Various central agencies should aid Haiphong in formulating and submitting to the government a management mechanism and policy featuring the unique conditions of the municipality as in other provinces.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed the hope that in 1993, Haiphong will strive to make ever greater socioeconomic achievements and firmly maintain its role as an economic center of the north.

Sharing the Prime Minister's views, comrades Phan Van Khai and Tran Duc Luong urged Haiphong to do its best to attain an economic growth higher than that of 1992. It must strive to promote investment, accelerate development, and create essential prerequisites to satisfactorily bring local resources into full play. The municipality should clearly define investment orientations for each branch and in each stage on the basis of its approved economic structure—the structure designed to bring optimum benefit to the whole northern region. The deputy prime ministers has urged that while implementing its economic open-door policy, Haiphong should consistently and seriously strengthen its state management work. Efforts must be made to strengthen discipline in economic management, maintaining social order and safety, enhancing security on major streets, and strictly observing regulations on land development and housing projects and so forth.

During his stay in Haiphong, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also visited the Do Son Processing Complex construction sites, the Kim Phong Cement Factory, and the Pha Rung Shipyard. At the Pha Rung Shipyard, the prime minister viewed various working sections of the shipyard and was briefed by its director on the production situation. The prime minister commended the shipyard for its rapid development in production and the effective exploitation of its available equipment and facilities, thereby being able to gradually stabilize its production line and ensure continued employment and a better life for its workers. The prime minister said the main tasks of the Haiphong shipyard in the next decade will still be limited to repairs. However, he urged that with its favorable geographical location and a large contingent of skilled workers, Haiphong should learn from experience and modern foreign technology through joint ventures so as to be able to develop itself into a firm, key economic center of the region.

Printing Enterprises, Arts Troupes Reorganize

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[Text] Ho Chi Minh City has closed down No. 5 and No. 8 Printing Enterprises. It is also preparing to integrate printing enterprises that are small and running at a loss. This will leave the city with only three printing enterprises.

Some arts troupes which are small and running at loss may be dissolved or reorganized. The city has also issued new policy on wages and per diem for grass-roots cultural cadres.